

Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 7

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

April 14, 2010

HOHENFELS

WELCOME HOME

The community bids “Willkommen” to Soldiers from 1-4th Infantry Regiment’s Team Apache

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ANSBACH

BOSSIN’ IN BERLIN

A small group of 12th CAB single Soldiers takes a 4-day trip through three major German cities

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GARMISCH

HER-STORY

Eighty community members celebrate the 30th anniversary of Women’s History Month

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SCHWEINFURT

KILLER THEATRICS

The Schweinfurt Theatre hosts the screwball comedy “P.S. Your Cat is Dead!”

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Going green

Join the Grafenwoehr-Vilseck community at the Main Post Shopping Center, April 22, from 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., for a host of Earth-friendly events including a “recycling” flea market and handicraft making workshops.

See page 6 for details.

Petstravagza

Bring your pets to the Vilseck Vet. Services Pet Fair, May 8, 10:30-1 p.m., at Rose Barracks’ Dragoon Field. Treats for all, rain or shine.

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A moo-ving performance

Elementary students learn kindness has value on and off the farm

Story and photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN

Bavarian News

Wiggly and giggly second-graders from Netzbarg Elementary School took to the stage in their debut musical performance of “E-I-E-I Oops,” March 31, singing a slightly anomalous version of “Old MacDonald” as fellow school-mates and teachers listened, swaying to the music.

There was an oink-oink here, a baa-baa there, here a quack, there a ... awkward silence?

Hmmm, something was missing.

The tiny performers gasped as the silence drifted across the multipurpose room of the school. The play abruptly stopped. All eyes turned to the sonant-stricken cow played by 7-year-old Julian Hernandez.

After a failed attempt to moo, he hung his head shyly.

“The cow couldn’t moo because it was his first time,” said 8-year-old Jaida Quintanilla after the performance, in a serious tone. “He thinks he may get it wrong.”

The musical production, written by John Higgins and John Jacobson, evolved from there as Old MacDonald, aided by his mule and rooster, various farmer friends and an assortment of colorful pigs, ducks and chickens, begged the bovine to bellow using choreographed song and dance.

The pigs hammed it up; the sheep had wool pulled over their eyes when Bo Peep went missing; and the cute chicks were just that, cute, in this pasture production. But the moral of the story sang as loud as the performers themselves.

“You can’t force a cow to moo,” said 8 year-old Victoria Medina. “If you do, it may never moo. You have to say nice things to it and help him.”

And that’s just what the animals did.

One by one the gaggle of go-getters complimented the cow on her coat, her hoofs, even her ability to stand properly – anything they could think of to build



Second-grade students Dominick Reece (left) and Victoria Medina join fellow classmates on stage during a musical performance of “E-I-E-I Oops” at Netzbarg Elementary School, March 31.

her confidence. And it was a smooth moo-ve when the newly confident cow moo’d with glee, much to the spectators’ delight.

This lesson on kindness can also be applied to life outside the barn, according to 7-year-old Alyse’a Hill.

“If someone has trouble doing some-

thing, you should be their friend and help,” said Hill, with a swift nod of the head.

Silly and sweet, the 20-minute barnyard spectacle entertained the crowd with dancing, singing, feet stomping, and of course, a good lesson or two about friendship.

Devil in details for cell phone contracts

by Lt. Col. **NANCY A. WALDRON**

*JMTC Office of the Staff
Judge Advocate*

“Buyer beware” and “read the fine print” have become such clichéd phrases that we barely pay attention to them anymore. But when it comes to German cell phone contracts, heeding this advice could save you a lot of money. Here are three key pieces of advice:

Read and understand the contract.

Don’t rely on the words of the salesperson. It doesn’t really matter what the salesperson told you – it’s the signed contract that counts. Reading a contract in English can be tough enough, but one that is in German or translated from German can make your head spin. Feel free to contact the German attorneys at your Legal Assistance Office before signing.

German contracts usually renew automatically, and failing to cancel them on time can cost you big bucks.

If you sign a contract for 24 months of cell phone service, when those 24 months are up, the contract will usually automatically renew unless you have cancelled the renewal in advance.

This is different from what we are used to in the United States, where once you meet the time period of the initial contract, you can opt to continue or cancel without penalty at any point.

How far in advance of the normal expiration date do you have to cancel? Your written

See ORDERS, page 25

250 Soldiers, families bound for Grafenwoehr

Story and photo by
Pfc. BETHANY L. LITTLE
172nd Infantry Brigade

Within the next few months, Task Force 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, will leave its current location in Schweinfurt to join its parent brigade at Grafenwoehr’s Main Post.

Single Soldiers and families without children will begin moving in early May. Additional Soldiers and families will continue to move here through the spring and following the completion of the school year.

“Though the moving is extremely difficult, the brigade is extremely excited to welcome TF 1st Bn., 2nd Inf. Regt., to Grafenwoehr,” said Lt. Col. Jamie Gough, brigade deputy commanding officer.

To help make the move and transition easier for everyone, the brigade and the task force have made arrangements for town hall meetings, tours of Grafenwoehr and a one-stop shop for out processing and in processing on both posts.

“We are trying to make this transition as easy as possible on the Soldiers and their families,” said Lt. Col. Steve Miska, commander, Task Force 1st Bn., 2nd Inf. Regt.

Good communication has been the

key to the move so far, Miska said while addressing the first town hall meeting with Soldiers and spouses. To keep communication flowing, the town hall was the perfect venue for Soldiers and their spouses to gain more information about the upcoming move.

During the town hall meeting, Soldiers and spouses addressed questions and concerns such as where to live, where to preregister for schools and whether there are enough jobs for spouses.

Representatives from U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, including school liaison, housing, religious support and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, briefed the task force on available options in the community.

“I’m pretty excited about moving to Grafenwoehr,” said Sgt. Josef Merriitt, cavalry scout, Headquarters and Headquarters Company. “My wife is originally from the Vilseck area, so it makes moving there much more appealing.”

Aside from the town hall meetings, accompanied and unaccompanied Soldiers toured Grafenwoehr.

“I’m most excited about moving to a new town, having new traveling opportunities, being on a bigger post and having better barracks,” said Pfc.



Soldiers from Task Force 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, tour the Grafenwoehr USO during the Single Soldier Tour, April 6, in anticipation of their move to Grafenwoehr later this month.

Fletcher Bowman, fire support specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

On the tour, Soldiers were shown key areas in the Grafenwoehr area such as the USO, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, Education Center, aid station, Post Exchange, Commis-

sary, and brigade and company areas. The tour was another way to familiarize Soldiers with the post before they moved to Grafenwoehr later this month, explained Miska.

“This move will eliminate that strain on our Soldiers and their families,” said Miska.



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We want to hear from you!

The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil. Prior coordination is mandatory.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is noon on Tuesday, the week prior to the publication date. Publication dates can be found at www.milcom.de.

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Adjustments are opportunities

Sustaining Soldiers, families and civilians is a priority for the Army, and the Installation Management Command's responsibility is to bring effective and efficient services, program and infrastructure to each of us. IMCOM's Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, recently unveiled our campaign plan during a worldwide conference in San Antonio. The plan ties together the priorities for all garrisons and ensures you will receive the same level of quality and services at every installation.

Our focus is on Soldier and Family Readiness, Soldier and Family Well-being, Leader and Workforce Development, Installation Readiness, Safety, Energy Efficiency and Security.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. addressed IMCOM leadership during the conference and highlighted the direction the Army is headed and how IMCOM and its plan are aligned to the needs of the Army. The Army has rebalanced based on growth, and other issues like readjusting dwell time for Soldiers, and moving Soldiers, civilians and families because of Base



Realignment and Closure have had a major impact on how we do business.

But according to Casey, these are opportunities. He emphasized the need to refine rather than to adapt.

We have the services and processes in place, so we are in good shape. We just need to ensure we work together to ensure our standards of excellence. Providing a safe environment underpins all we do, and risk management and good judgment are tools we can sharpen to help avoid accidents.

Sustainability (and stewardship) means we will manage our resources in a way that achieves balance for mission, community and environment. Both safety and sustainability are day-to-day activities, and it is our job to incorporate that mindset into all aspects of our operations.

Resilience means we stay focused and can meet challenges by ensuring our levels are support are always consistent to meet your needs. We will rely on partnerships to help enhance your quality of life and communication to keep you informed.

Our new IMCOM campaign plan logo seems to



do the best job of simplying these focus areas and how these are related — we are here to support our mission (represented by the star and stripes), our family (represented by the mother, father and child), our environment and sustainability (represented by the tree), and our facilities (represented by the buildings) in the best way possible. That means having a top-notch workforce and an emphasis on processes and improvement.

As the logo shows, our support must continue to be balanced. While the strains in one area may require additional resources, we must not let our standards fall in another area. This goes back to resilience. Readiness and well-being are about being prepared and having confidence that the resources we need are available. Whether it's for our mission or for our families, knowing the Army is meeting our needs regardless of physical location is a standard that has been set high and will continue to be raised.

The IMCOM Campaign Plan provides us a direction to remain Army Strong!

Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

Parents need spring break, too

My neighborhood girlfriend is married to a teacher. Rich doesn't have one measly week off at spring break. He has two. So every day last week we got treated to CariLyn flaunting her "behusbandedness" in front of all of us whose partners do not have leave. We witnessed these two holding hands; drinking coffee at the bus stop; going off for romantic little hikes; taking afternoon naps; mulching and their kids weren't home.

This, I think, is evil, because the military doesn't dole out the spring breaks. Oh, I think I remember something about the recruiter saying that Brad would accumulate two and a half days of paid leave every month. I'm pretty sure we are supposed to end up with four weeks of leave every year. Yet Brad and I tend to burn all that in an orgy of moving boxes and paint cans. We do not nap. We do not flaunt. We are total idiots.

One of the secrets of a good military life has got to be making your service member take a spring break. Once you have a couple of weeks stored up on the books in case of emergency, I think it is your sworn duty as a spouse unit to make the service member take some leave.

Now some military spouses really do rock at the whole leave thing. They are

great at finding travel deals and saving for vacations and visiting the family for all weddings, funerals and reunions. I personally plan out holidays months in advance. Christmas in July means: "Put in your leave chit, honey."

So why are we so bad at enforcing a kid-free, work-free, guilt-free, two-day spring break? I kind of think Brad and I have forgotten the true meaning of spring break - which is, Girls Gone Wild. I don't mean those scary drunk girls in Cancun who turn up on late night TV terrifying their parents and providing fodder for their future presidential adversaries.

When I say Girls Gone Wild, I mean, say ... me. Getting wild. Me being so intoxicated by daffodils and cherry blossoms and green grass and blue sky that I don't want to do any of the normal things I have to do. That I want to blow off work and do something that involves the sun and lazing about with Brad - if Brad is, in fact, capable of lazing. Which I have never seen, but I fully believe he is capable of accomplishing.

See, that's what leave is made for. Not as an asset you sell back at the end of your career. Not as a day your service member can fertilize the grass and clean out the garage. If you ask me, leave was created so that the two of you can enjoy the easy freedom that your service member earned working weekends and duty nights and holidays and summers and snow days during deployment.

Here are my spouse rules for a good spring break:

- 1. Pick a slow week**
Spring break is no fun if the unit has some kind of crazy inspection or certification the next day. Also, if the unit is deployed, spring break isn't that fun. So save it until your service member can be there, too. Put it on the books at least a month ahead so that urgent-but-unimportant stuff can't cram it out.
- 2. Pick two days mid-week**
Because of the whacky leave rules, if your service member takes leave on the days around the weekend, you have to count the weekend as part of your leave, burning up two extra days that your service member would have been off anyway. If you take a Tuesday and a Wednesday, your service member can check in Monday and make sure everything is pretty much good to go. Then he or she can relax Tuesday before getting all hyper about work Wednesday night.
- 3. Don't ask. Don't tell**
Do not tell anyone about your planned spring break. Especially your children. Children who find out about grown-up fun have a very bad habit of running fevers. Do not breathe a word of this to your mothers. Tell your bosses that you have "family matters" to attend to. Because you do.
- 4. Ignore the weather**
The good thing about spring break when you are already married is that sun, while welcome, is not required. If your spouse is currently deployed, plan a spring break for next fall, or whatever.

Even in the most miserable weather, a cooler, a blender and some Buffett create spring break.

If you need further details about how leave actually accrues, check out the easy info at Military.com: www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/military-authorized-leave, and email me jacey@jaceyeckhart.com on the down low about the spring break you take. I'm always interested in your tips and ideas.

Entschuldigung

In the March 3 edition, the Grafenwoehr Elementary School Honor Roll was inadvertently omitted. Below is that list of stellar students.

Grafenwoehr Elementary School	
A Honor Roll	Myrah Hernandez-Mace
Adam Andrews	Raphael Hill
Diana Barta	Laura Hurtado
Abriah B Batts	Jasmine Jimenez
Carla Childs	Savi'R Karlsson
Cassidy Delaney	Patrizia Klos
Natalie Hobbs	Joseph S Lechwar
Peyton Mansell	Brianna Lewis
Lydia Reeder	Leandra Mulla
Megan Wallace	Blake Newcomb
	Nicole Ogborn
A/B Honor Roll	Mason Porter
Mariana Acosta	Trey Pruitt
Victoria Banister	Ryan Randle
Mallory Brennan	Michael Reid
Tyler Cooper	Gabriela Shimkus
Brianna Downs	Morrice Smith
Ean Freeman	Abigail Villanueva
Eric Guzman	Caleb Zumwalt



Chandra's Weighty Issues

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Panel 1: CHANDRA: AAAGH! I HAVE GOT TO QUIT RUNNING! IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT!

Panel 2: JENNY: QUIT? BUT WHY? ISN'T IT WORKING? CHANDRA: OH, IT'S WORKING....

Panel 3: JENNY: ...BUT I'VE SPENT THE LAST TWELVE YEARS BUILDING A WARDROBE TO FIT MY BODY. CHANDRA: SO WHAT?

Panel 4: JENNY: SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH A CLOSET FULL OF SIZE SIX TOPS AND SIZE FOURTEEN SLACKS? CHANDRA: I'M NOT LISTENING. I'M NOT LISTENING. I'M NOT LISTENING!

Students develop leadership qualities

‘Emerging Leaders’ gain knowledge from Joint Multinational Training Command’s Commanding General

Story and photos by
NANCY NOLIN
Netzaberg Middle School

Emerging Leaders, the ASACS student leadership group, has invited guest speakers this past year to share their thoughts about positive qualities of leadership. The students agreed that it has been helpful to have speakers attend their meetings to share ideas about the role of leadership.

Recently, Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general, Joint Multinational Training Command, was the invited guest to an Emerging Leaders lunchtime meeting. As a public speaking exercise in leadership,

Emerging Leaders Kristine P. and Nick B. introduced the general by reading part of his career biography. Additionally, Phillip R. shared with Salazar the projects that Emerging Leaders have worked on this year and the leadership skills they have been learning and enhancing.

Salazar participated in a round-table format with the eighth grade students of Emerging Leaders. As they shared lunch, many of the students discussed what they had learned from previous community leaders who spoke at similar luncheons, including Col. James Blackburn, Lt. Col. Eric Stetson, and Shannon Sevier.

They also discussed the many projects they had implemented, the most recent project being “Wounded Warrior Week” at Netzaberg Middle School. This project included the students planning and organizing steps to collect specific items so that they can be sent to the wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.



During his visit with Netzaberg Middle School’s Emerging Leaders group, Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar challenges students to show him a vision of what their current wounded warrior project will look like.

“LBE ~ DRT” was a key message Salazar conveyed to the students, which stands for “lead by example and do the right thing.” Salazar said students could use the acronym to for future reference when making decisions.

Salazar asked students about their vision for the recent wounded warrior project.

Nick L. said he “wants the wounded service members to know that we care about them.”

“I want to say how much I appreciate the sacrifice the Soldiers have made for us,” said



Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar discusses leadership tactics with students from Netzaberg Middle School’s Emerging Leaders group during lunch. The students also shared leadership techniques they learned from other community leaders.

Meraleigh R.

When the general challenged the group to have a vision of what that would look like, students brainstormed. Riley F. suggested a group photo in front of the Netzaberg Middle School sign so that it can be sent in with the care

packages the Emerging Leaders will send to the Soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Megan M. and Emily M. also suggested students write poems.

See STUDENTS, page 24

Summer Hire program now hiring

by Staff Sgt.
PATRICIA DEAL

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – U. S. Army Europe family members ages 14-22 can apply for summer employment in the 2010 Summer Hire program through May 7. The program, which runs from June 21 through July 30, provides jobs in clerical, labor and child development positions.

“The Summer Hire program is really a unique program. It gives young people an opportunity to develop discipline and experience a workplace environment, and at the same time earn a little money. It helps them as they plan for college and their future jobs,” said Supervisory Human Resources Provider Clarence “Sonny” Acklin, from the Civilian Human Resources Agency Europe Region director’s office. “The various units and organizations that employ the young people also benefit from the

Summer Hire program, as the kids manage to get a lot done in the six weeks.”

“I look forward to the group of workers during the summer. It helps the workload,” said Jessie Dayton, Mannheim Fitness Facility manager, who has employed youth from the Summer Hire program for the past three years. “The kids are enthusiastic and hardworking. I have the opportunity to instill a strong work ethic in these young folks. Not to mention that we get a lot done while they’re here.”

Kaiserslautern teenager Jordan Smith, 18, said he enjoyed his experiences the two summers he worked in the program. The application process was easy and the work was not hard, he said. “It was cool because I got to work with kids I knew and my bosses were easygoing,” he said. “The money wasn’t bad either, especially for a freshman and sophomore. I even got money back on my tax return. I saved almost all of it.”

While the money was a plus for Smith, he said that working in the Summer Hire program at an early age taught him responsibility, too, as he had to follow a schedule and not show up late or miss work. “I think all kids should sign up for the program,” he said. “The experience helped me. Now I have a permanent part-time job.”

Mannheim teenager Arikka Shepard, 15, said she is looking forward to her summer job this year, as she enjoyed working last year. “I actually made a lot of money so I could buy some cool things,” she said. “At least I wasn’t wasting my summer doing nothing, and probably getting into trouble.”

Salary for the Summer Hire positions is yet to be determined, but should be around \$5.50 per hour, according to Acklin.

Clerical work includes tasks such as typing, computer work, filing, answering telephones and receptionist and customer service tasks. Labor positions may include

working indoors or outdoors and light to moderate lifting or yard work. Child and Youth Services positions involve assisting child caregivers or helping with youth activities.

Applicants for summer hire positions must be unmarried family members of active duty service members or DOD civilian employees. Applicants must have reached their 14th birthday prior to June 21, and must not reach their 23rd birthday prior to July 30, when the program ends. For positions in Child and Youth Services, applicants must be at least 16 years old.

There are two parts to the application process. Applicants must first apply online at the CHRA-E Web site under “employment” at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur>. Applicants must also submit a hard-copy application packet to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center that services their community. Complete instructions and forms are available on the CHRA-E Web site.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Brian Swenty

What grade and subject do you teach? 10th grade AVID and 9th and 10th grade honors World History.

Hometown: Canal Zone, Panama. Graduate of Balboa High School (DoDDS).

How long have you been a teacher? Seven years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? I enjoy helping students find their passions in life. I believe they must have something that excites them in order to truly find happiness.

What advice can you give students to help them

succeed? Be organized, take great notes and set aside a specific place in your home to study. Studying is not just doing homework but taking real time to review and master your subjects.

Local art to compete at national level

by **JUDY GERAGHTY**
Netzaberg Teen Center

The artwork of two students from Vilseck High School has been selected to compete at the 2010 Boys and Girls Club of America National Fine Arts Exhibit in the United States later this year. Nicole Nakata’s drawing, “Randomness,” and Ben Villalon’s sculpture, “Fighting Dragon,” were two of 40 chosen from more than 350 pieces at the regional fine arts competition in Garmisch, Germany, March 14.

Earlier in the competition, nine paintings and one sculpture were selected by judges at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Netzaberg Youth Center. Those selections were Xavier Calip, 11, mixed media; Maggie Clearwater, 11, pastel; Cecilia Fodor, 13, for mixed media and acrylic; Nichole Nakata, 15, mixed media; Summer Robson, 11,



Nakata



Villalon



collage; Erika Schneider, 11, colored pencil; Ben Villalon, 14, sculpture; and Brianna Woodson, 11, for water color and acrylic.

Editor’s Note: Judy Geraghty is a program assistant at the Netzaberg Teen Center.

2SCR prepares for Afghanistan

by Sgt. MICHAEL L. REINSCH
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

HOHENFELS TRAINING AREA, Germany – A chilly wind rolls over the hilltops and through a forward operating base here. Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment start the engines of their armored vehicles and put on their Kevlar helmets, body armor and eye protection to prepare for the long day ahead. Danger is hidden somewhere in the woods, ready to move against these Soldiers. But the Stryker troops are ready.

This scene played out time and again as the 2nd SCR spent the month of March completing a Mission Rehearsal Exercise to prepare for its deployment to Afghanistan this summer. Approximately 3,500 Stryker Soldiers trained in many different fields of expertise – including basic Soldier skills, field medical tasks and maintaining and operating unmanned aerial vehicles – to prepare for their deployment.

The meat and potatoes of the exercise were daily scenarios that required Soldiers to perform tasks such as clearing routes, assisting local residents, gathering intelligence and conducting security patrols.

The patrol exercises challenged Soldiers to work with locals to establish good relationships and provide citizens with needed supplies while gathering information about insurgents, said Sgt. Luis Jimenez, a Stryker armored vehicle commander for “Bulldog Company,” 1st Squadron, 2nd SCR. Comparing the training to his own previous 16-month deployment to Afghanistan, Jimenez said the MRE is very realistic.

The addition of international role-players to portray Afghan citizens boosted the exercise’s realism. These actors are placed in mock villages that simulate towns in Afghanistan, where Soldiers must interact with “local citizens” just as they will while deployed.

Being able to engage with “local” citizens and leaders during training provides valuable skills that pay off during deployment, said Jimenez.

Working with the role-players helps Soldiers understand that the unit’s missions are about building good relations, not just about kicking down doors, added Sgt. Jan Krieg of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Squadron, 2nd SCR.

More than 700 military and civilian personnel from across U.S. Army Europe supported the training, including more than 200 who acted as observer-controllers to oversee the different training scenarios and provide command and control, said Maj. Nick Sternberg, public affairs officer for the Joint Multinational Readiness Center here.



Photo by Richard Bumgardner

Members of the Nomad Troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, cover their Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle at Hohenfels Training Area after high winds prevented them from launching their aircraft. The 2SCR recently participated in a Mission Rehearsal Exercise in preparation for its upcoming deployment.

Another 700 Soldiers and civilian employees assigned to JMRC provided operational support and the opposing forces – “the enemy” – for the MRE, he said.

Bringing members of many different organizations together to assist in the training helps Soldiers feel more confident about deployment, said Jimenez. It was a cold month in the field and the hours were long, but the Soldiers of the 2nd SCR wrapped up their exercise one step closer to a successful deployment.

Two Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe’s 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment discuss tactics while setting up a perimeter during the 2SCR’s Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Hohenfels, Germany, March 10. The monthlong exercise was designed to prepare Soldiers from the 2SCR for deployment to Afghanistan this summer.



Photo by Sgt. Michael L. Reinsch

Spouses’ Club donates check to local shelter

by Sgt. JERRY WILSON
2SCR Public Affairs

Way too often when a military family is faced with a PCS move, it means they say goodbye friends and their four-legged family members. Many times amid the hustle and bustle of packing, clearing post and shipping vehicles, the fate of the family pet gets left to the last minute and Spot or Fluffy wind up either abandoned or left at the local animal shelter.

Shelters like the Tierheim in Amberg have become a safe house for animals of some military families who left their pets behind. Currently, the shelter houses have over 30 dogs for adoption as well as a variety of animals such as mice, rabbits and cats. According to the Tierheim staff, almost two thirds of these animals were from military members.

In an effort to bring awareness to this growing problem, members of the Vilseck Spouses Club dropped by the shelter to deliver a very special gift, March 25. Through contributions and donations the VSC donated over 467 pounds of pet food and a check for 500 euros toward the care of the many animals left at the shelter by military families.

“This is kind of an olive branch on our behalf,” said Christina Vaughn, VSC president. “We want them to see that we are trying to raise awareness of neglected animals from Americans on military bases.”

Vaughn and VSC spouses felt so strongly about the issue they began to ask people to bring pet food in lieu of entry fees for their events. They have also set up donation boxes at the thrift store in Vilseck. This fundraising drive is the beginning of a new program called the Vilseck Pet Owners Campaign (V-POC).

“V-POC is designed to bring responsible pet ownership awareness to our military families,” she said. “We are using all media venues and our events to put all the information out there because a lot of people coming over that don’t have all the information.”

Vaughn believes it is important for American families to treat their animals with the respect that our German hosts do.

“They are treated like members of the family here,” she said. “We need to be respectful of that and not treat them like they are disposable.”

Vaughn said V-POC is a grass-roots campaign she hopes takes off throughout Europe.

The city of Amberg currently contributes 25 euro cents per resident to the shelter. The Tierheim receives 60,000 euros a year, which is used to cover veterinary costs from this tax. No provision is provided to cover costs for abandoned military pets.

172nd’s McClafin leaves legacy, big shoes to fill



Photo by Sgt. Charles Crail

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McClafin (right), of the 172nd Infantry Brigade, passes the traditional infantry spontoon to Col. Jeffery Sinclair, commander, 172nd Inf. Bde., during the relinquishment of responsibility ceremony, March 24. McClafin’s next assignment will be as the command sergeant major of the United States Army Infantry School in Fort Benning, Ga.

Unit’s command sergeant major integral to success on and off battlefield

by Pfc. BETHANY L. LITTLE
172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

The air stood still as Soldiers, family members and distinguished guests awaited the start of a ceremony in the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center, March 24. The crowd’s somber mood gave the appearance of a memorial service rather than a traditional change of responsibility.

After five years of service with the 172nd Infantry Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McClafin officially stood before the crowd and formation to relinquish his responsibility as the senior noncommissioned officer of the Blackhawk Brigade.

The ceremony invoked tradition with the passing of the spontoon to symbolize the passing of responsibility from one command sergeant major to another. Command Sgt. Maj. Malcom Parrish will serve as the interim command sergeant major of the brigade until May when Command Sgt. Maj. Robert French arrives.

“I’m really upset to see him go,” said Spc. Airam Murry, infantryman, Echo Troop, 5th Cavalry Regiment. “I used to work with him when we were 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment. He was always focused on the mission and accomplished his goals no matter what.”

McClafin led the brigade in transforming from 2nd Dagger Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to the 172nd Inf. Bde., and deployed the unit to war three times. In the most recent deployment, the brigade assumed responsibility of five provinces in southern Iraq with a mission to assist and advise the Iraqi Security Force and political leaders.

As the command sergeant major for the brigade,

McClafin also played a key role in helping to move half the brigade and the brigade headquarters from Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr. Upon completion of that task, McClafin then helped prepare the brigade from these two locations to redeploy to Iraq.

However, McClafin did not boast of his own accomplishments with the brigade, but rather of the accomplishments of his Soldiers and their families. He spoke of the multiple deployments the brigade has gone through in recent years and how willing it was to fight and return home safely.

“Why did I tell you all of this?” McClafin asked. “To give credit where credit is due. Look at the Soldiers in formation. It is the combined efforts, determination and commitment of these great Soldiers and their families that have made this brigade as successful as it is today.”

Through McClafin’s time with the 172nd Inf. Bde., he has established a legacy for the brigade through the plankholder’s association and other cornerstone events that instilled a Blackhawk esprit de corps within the unit.

“Today is a very tough day for me as a commander,” said Col. Jeffery Sinclair, brigade commander, 172nd Inf. Bde. “I have to say goodbye to an excellent leader and a dear friend. The brigade will never replace him, but we will have a new command sergeant major who will have some pretty big shoes to fill.”

McClafin will go on to assume responsibility as the command sergeant major of the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga.

“It’s a small Army,” McClafin said. “I’m sure I’ll see many of you again in the future.”

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

Grafenwoehr community goes green for Earth Day 2010

by MARKUS LOY and
CAECILIA MEIER

USAG Grafenwoehr DPW Environmental Division

We will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day April 22, 2010. In terms of environmental protection, a lot has happened since we celebrated the first Earth Day. Still, it is more important than ever to preserve our environment, to use energy and resources efficiently and responsibly and, thus, help sustain the very planet on which we live.

Earth Day was first celebrated April 22, 1970, and rallied more than 20 million Americans to become involved in environmental activities. This event started the largest grassroots movement in U.S. history and created what has since become an environmental movement.

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr will participate in the celebration commemorating the 40th anniversary of Earth day from April 19-23. The Directorate of Public Works staff has planned numerous activities for this special Earth Day.

Monday-Wednesday, April 19–21: Save Energy – Ride Your Bike

Ride your bike to work, save energy, help reduce greenhouse gases and get a little thank you when entering post on bike on these three days between 6:30-8 a.m. (Main Post: Gates 1, 3 & 6 and Rose Barracks: Gate 1).

Thursday, April 22: Earth Day

Many attractions and lots of fun in front of the Main Post Exchange

Flea Market – Sell or trade items you no longer need instead of throwing them away. DPW will provide tables and benches. Registration required no later than April 16: DSN 475-6664,



Photo by Helmut Bueller

Students and teachers at Netzaberg Elementary School participate in Earth Day activities during the 2009 Spread the Green week. The week consisted of quizzes, handicrafts and an energy bike all aimed at teaching the importance of being environmentally aware.

CIV 09641-83-6664 or e-mail helmut.bueller@us.army.mil.

Energy Saving – Try pedalling the energy bike and generate energy using your muscles; visit the E-on mobile and learn more on how to save energy and on how photovoltaic modules work.

County Office Neustadt Waldnaab – Make a nice handicraft using TetraPak containers. The SORT coordinator of the county office at Neustadt/Waldnaab will show you how.

Town of Weiden - Pot your own geranium

plant with a staff member of Weiden's municipal landscaping department lending a helping hand and learn all about making compost.

Nature Protection – Participate in the nature quiz and win a prize, make a bird's nest.

Recycling – SORTING game, see different recycling container solutions, do the recycling quiz (prizes to win), videos (shredder-plant, Green Dot, free balloons).

Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) – To dispose of WEEE via regular trash pick-up is prohibited by German law. Get information on how and where to dispose of electrical and electronic devices. Bring your unusable electrical and electronic gadgets such as phones, radios, radio clocks and we will provide a container at the PX.

Integrated Training Area Management - Get information on environmental protection and military training.

Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.: CYS Kinderfest – Netzaberg

DPW will have a booth with many attractions and information on recycling, energy consumption and environmental protection. Get balloons, windmills, make your own buttons, play the recycling game, participate in the recycling quiz, make an environmentally friendly handicraft, and win a prize in the nature quiz.

April and May – School Activities

There are a number of field trips scheduled in April and May, such as the "Yellow Bag" tour to Steinfels, or a visit to the nature Walks Bierlohe and Vilseck, which are aimed at educating everyone on environmentally relevant issues.

By participating in these and other Earth Week events you can help do your part to save our planet.

Spread the Green



Netzaberg Elementary celebrates Earth Week

**NETZABERG
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
News Release

In 1970, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Earth Day 1970 turned that all around.

On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment.

Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment.

Groups that had been individually fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Now, the fight for a clean environment continues. Netzaberg Elementary School invites you to be a part of this history and a part of Earth Day.

Discover energy you didn't even know you had. Feel it rumble through the grass roots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips. Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

The "Spread the Green" Committee encourages you and your students to participate in the "Spread the Green" Events. Take this opportunity to help our students "Spread the Green!"

If you have any questions about the events, contact Netzaberg Complex committee members: Lisa Ramirez, Charmaine Cruz, Melissa Driscoll, Monica One Feather, Rhoda Wilner, Laura Faraason, Chris Crippen and Diane Gibbs.

Spread the Green Events

Team Green

April 19-22 - Work with a class from Netzaberg Middle School or another class in our school to create "recycled art." Use plastic bottles,

Styrofoam popcorn, recyclable paper, bottle tops, soda cans, plastic bags or any other recyclable trash you can find. See how creative your class can be at making "art" from trash. Projects must be completed by April 22 and will be displayed beginning April 23 through the end of "Spread the Green" Week. E-mail Rhoda Wilner if you would like to team up with another class to work on this fun project.

Appreciate Green

April 22 - Find a peaceful time during the day to take a nature walk around the school grounds with your class. See all of the beauty that surrounds us. Talk about protecting our grounds. Sit outside and read a book. Enjoy nature.

Become Green

April 26 - NES - 8:15 a.m.

Learn how to become green at the Spread the Green Assembly.

All grade 1 levels are invited to the "Spread the Green" assembly in the Multipurpose Room at 8:15 a.m. There will be a power point presentation and important information shared about many of the "Spread the Green" Week events.

Clean Green

April 27 - Clean your classroom and the school grounds. Take a class trip to our very own recycling center to recycle the recyclables and throw away the trash. A great hands-on experience for the students!

Be Green

April 28 - All Netzaberg Dragons dress in green to show their green spirit!

Share Green

April 29 - Students (and teachers) take time on this day to write letters to parents, the newspaper, the President, your friends and your teachers encouraging them to be green. We will mail some of the letters.

Give Green

April 30 - We will donate all of the green we collect during the "Spread the Green" Week. A "Spread the Green" bottle will be placed in the lobby during the week for green donations. The donations will be used to save an acre of the rainforests in South America as well as adding some green shrubbery to the front area of Netzaberg Elementary School.

Stepping lightly reduces global impact



by MARKUS LOY

*USAG Grafenwoehr
DPW Environmental Division*

Mankind depends on nature and its resources. But how do we know how much of nature we use and how much there is? These are the kinds of questions ecological footprint tries to answer.

The footprint compares human demand for natural resources with the earth's capacity. It uses statistics to calculate the areas (unit: global hectare, or gha per person) required for the

production, use and disposal of all goods, materials and energy sources (including carbon dioxide (CO2) balance) consumed.

Currently, we consume the earth's natural resources faster than they can regenerate. With approximately 2.7 gha/person the earth's ecological footprint was larger than the earth's capacity (2.1 gha/person) by approximately 40 percent.

This implies that we would actually need 1.4 planets to cover sustainably our hunger for energy, raw material and land and to neutralize the impact caused by greenhouse gases and civilization's waste.

It is possible to determine the ecological footprint for individual nations. At a biocapacity of 5 gha/person, the United States, for example, have a footprint of 9.4 gha/person.

Visit www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/ for more information on the ecological footprint, further country statistics and a calculator to determine your personal footprint.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA



By Michael Beaton, JMTC Public Affairs

Rockets and Atomic Cannons: Cold War Era Grafenwoehr

In the summer of 1965, a half dozen Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Division placed an unremarkable 55-gallon steel drum and metal box with handles in the impact area of the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA).

Soon after, onlookers heard a deafening blast and witnessed a huge, mushroom-shaped cloud, rising high above the impact area. The Cold War spectre of an atomic blast was rising up over the GTA.

But where was the heat, the blast, and the blinding light? Unlike a real atomic blast, the M142 Atomic Explosion Simulator was made for sight, sound and spectacle only. The first simulated nuclear blast in Germany was an impressive illusion of tactical battlefield conditions.

Simulated blasts would occur throughout the 50's and 60's. A local German newspaper, Der Neue Tag reported in February 1960: "Rising-out of the midst of artificial fog, accompanied by thunderous explosions, was a mushroom cloud, a simulated detonation of an atomic bomb, stunning and leaving the units assigned here in awe. This is what makes such maneuvers/exercises in West Germany so unique - the implementation of tactical-strategic atomic weapons on both sides ... the spectacle could be seen from 3 kilometers around the blast."



The mission hasn't changed. Between 1953 to the mid-1990's Soldiers trained for Cold War contingencies at the GTA, and though there were never any real nuclear weapons at the training area there was no shortage of cutting-edge equipment.

There was the 280mm M65, known as the "Atomic Cannon," which was fired without any electronics. It was one of the world's first artillery pieces capable of firing a nuclear shell. In addition, if the hydraulics failed, the M65 could be aimed and fired manually.

Later in the mid-50s, Grafenwoehr Soldiers trained to fire the "Honest John" rocket, as well as other artillery pieces smaller and more refined than the M65. By the mid-1960's there was even a four-man mobile unit, the "Davy Crockett," a bazooka-like weapon that looked a lot like a bulky, lumbering rocket propelled grenade launcher.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LIST OF
UPCOMING COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL

Last Cold War patrol celebrated with ceremony at former border outpost

by Staff Sgt. CLAUDIO R. TEJADA
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

A retreat ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the last U.S. Army patrol along the border of the former East and West Germany took place at this one-time outpost near the city of Fulda, March 31.

The event honored the achievements of the Soldiers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, known as the Blackhorse Regiment, and the partnership between America and Germany during the Cold War era.

“Being here was a difficult mission,” said retired Gen. John Abrams, the “Blackhorse” commander at the time of the last patrol. Abrams said the mission here began in February 1946 with the 14th Cavalry Group, a unit that was well-known to his father, former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Creighton Abrams.

The Soldiers who manned Point Alpha trained and deployed in a fast tempo, Abrams said, rotating as often as every three months between their home base in Fulda, field training in Grafenwoehr and duty on the border.

Platoons of approximately 40 cavalry troopers pulled patrol duties from four to six weeks at a time to demonstrate NATO’s presence here and make a show of force along the border overlooking the famed Fulda Gap, where many expected the ultimate confrontation of the Cold War to play out.

The regiment’s mission and assignment at what was officially called Observation Point Alpha ended with Germany’s reunification in November 1989 and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

Starting this year, a German-American Day celebration is scheduled here for March 31 every

year, Abrams said.

The retreat ceremony took place on a chilly day, near the former U.S. observation tower, just a moment’s walk away from the former border and a now-defunct East German guard tower. Current and retired senior U.S. Army leaders and German government officials addressed the importance of the mission for the U.S.-German partnership.

“The Soldiers that represented U.S. Army Europe, both in this regiment and for this region, all rotated up here to pull part of the mission and the duty,” Abrams said during his keynote address.

“The work at Point Alpha is a symbol of the NATO alliance,” he said. “I can tell you with all respect and admiration that this partnership was excellent. It was excellent in the cities and communities (where) we lived; it was excellent in the military; and it was excellent, frankly, in the framework of the NATO alliance, which continues to grow.”

Brig. Gen. Michael Ryan, the V Corps deputy commanding general, said the corps and its German partners successfully defended the Fulda Gap for four decades.

“The U.S. and western allies focused for 40 years on deterring aggression and defending Western Europe against threats from the Soviet Union and its communist partners in Eastern Europe,” he said. Ryan emphasized that the outpost’s mission today, standing as a symbol of that partnership, is just as important as Point Alpha’s strategic value during the Cold War.

The presence of NATO troops on this border, and the alliance between Germany and U.S. units such as the 11th ACR and other V Corps and VII Corps Soldiers, ensured that the west was ready to deploy in response to an invasion



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Stephens

Members of the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus’s Dixie Band (left to right) Sgt. Ariel Kattan (on guitar) 1st Sgt. Peter Plumley (on trombone), Staff Sgt. Chas Gunter (on trumpet), Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Staggs (on trumpet) and Staff Sgt. Fulgencio Medina (on drums) perform at a ceremony at Point Alpha, near Fulda, Germany, March 31. The ceremony marked the 20th anniversary of the last patrol at the checkpoint on the former border between East Germany and West Germany.

from the east, said Lt. Col. John McClory, a former commander of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th ACR.

Today OP Alpha is “a chilling but important reminder of the division of Germany and the

west-east altercations of the Cold War,” said Ryan.

“Point Alpha is a strong reminder of the vigilance and professionalism of those V Corps and 11th ACR troopers and warriors,” he said.

Official details new recuperation leave policy

by JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Some deployed service members will not be charged for rest and recuperation leave under a new Defense Department policy.

The new policy allows service members in designated areas to go on rest and recuperation leave without charge to their leave accounts.

“So in a sense, it is an administrative absence and that’s up to 15 days,” said Sam Retherford, the Defense Department’s director of officer and enlisted personnel management.

In the past, the leave was charged to service members’ accounts, though

travel time from the theater to the airport closest to their destinations was not charged, Retherford said.

The nonchargeable rest and recuperation leave program will be limited to the “most arduous” areas, and the combatant commander must recommend it through the Joint Staff for approval by the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, Retherford said.

To qualify for the program, members must be serving in a leave restricted area, where no dependents are allowed, and must be receiving hostile-fire pay in areas where travel in and out of the country is restricted.

“Two additional areas are that the

duty has to be extremely arduous and the command has to foresee continuing combat operations,” Retherford said.

The benefit will take effect once an area is designated by the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness and will not apply retroactively. The Army identified the need as especially important for junior members, Retherford said, because they typically do not have a large amount of leave accumulated.

“At the end of their deployment, there is very little in their leave accounts for rest, recuperation and reintegration to the family and community,” he said. “So this program means they will not be charged for the R & R leave,

and they will have that leave upon redeployment.”

Inability to take leave upon returning from a deployment is a problem. The services want their people to take leave so they can decompress and reintegrate with families and communities. The services have been allowing administrative leave upon redeployment from a combat zone, but generally limit it to local areas around bases. Service members already in Iraq and Afghanistan who qualify to participate in the R & R program will qualify for the nonchargeable R & R program. The areas that qualify for the program have to be redesignated every two years.

The commander of U.S. Central Command requested Iraq and Afghanistan be designated as nonchargeable rest and recuperation areas, Retherford said. “We quickly coordinated this request with the military departments to ensure we provided service members with this new benefit as quickly as possible,” he added.

About one million service members have participated in Centcom’s rest and recuperation program. Due to the requirement for combat operations in a presidentially designated combat zone, the nonchargeable program should be limited to U.S. Central Command, officials said.

Army honors combined logistics excellence awardees

U.S. ARMY EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – U.S. Army Europe and the Installation Management Command-Europe honored organizations and installations for their excellence in the areas of supply, maintenance and deployment operations during a Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion here, March 23.

The CLEA program encompasses three distinct awards –

the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence, the Deployment Excellence Award and the Supply Excellence Award. The program here combines the recognition of USAREUR and IMCOM-E organizations. Each award is presented in multiple categories.

In his remarks at the event, USAREUR Commander Gen. Carter Ham said this year’s awards are noteworthy because continued deployments over the past eight years have made the already tough process of competing for CLEAs even more difficult.

“It’s not like 10 years ago, when you could focus your entire unit’s energy on preparing for this award,” said Ham. “The way

we do business today in the Army, if you don’t have sound systems – if you don’t have excellent systems – no surge or special effort is going to allow you to be good enough to win these awards.”

Organizations earn the awards based on an entry packet containing the unit’s profile and descriptions of its achievements during the previous 12 months, followed by rigorous on-site evaluations by subject-matter experts.

Preparing for the award and evaluation is a small piece of the process, Ham said; what really earns CLEAs is the service units provide day in, day out.

Combined Logistics Excellence Awards			
FY 09 USAREUR Army Award for Maintenance Excellence winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category MTOE, Large: Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, V Corps, Vilseck, Germany.Category Table of Distribution and Allowances, Small: Aviation Flight Detachment (Falcon Team), 7th Army Joint Multinational Readiness Center, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Hohenfels, Germany.Category TDA, Medium: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Small Deploying Unit: Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 7th Army Joint Multinational Readiness Center, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Hohenfels, Germany.Category Large Deploying Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, V Corps, Grafenwoehr, Germany.	Schweinfurt, Germany.	
FY 10 USAREUR Deployment Excellence Award runner-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Large Deploying Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, V Corps, Grafenwoehr, Germany.	FY 10 USAREUR Deployment Excellence Award honorable mentions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Operational Deployment Large Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Troop1st Battalion, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, V Corps,	FY 10 UAREUR Supply Excellence Award winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Level I (A) MTOE: Company/Battery/Detachment: 615th Military Police Company (Combat Support), 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.Category Level I (B) TDA: Company/Battery/Detachment: Noncommissioned Officer Academy, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.Category Level II (A) MTOE Property Book Operations: Property Book Office,2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.Category Level II (B) TDA Property Book Operations: Property Book Office,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Hohenfels, Germany.
FY 10 USAREUR Deployment Excellence Award best participating: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Operational Deployment Small Unit: 41st Transportation Company18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.		FY 10 IMCOM-Europe Supply Excellence Award winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Level II (B) TDA Property Book Operations: Installation Property Book Office,Director of Logistics, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Grafenwoehr, Germany.	Vilseck, Germany.
		FY 10 USAREUR Level Supply Excellence Award runners-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Level I (A) MTOE: Company/Battery/Detachment: Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Illesheim, Germany.Category Level III (A) MTOE Battalion: 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Katterbach, Germany.Category Level IV (A) MTOE Supply Support Activity: Supply Support Activity (WA3), 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment,	
			FY 10 IMCOM-Europe Supply Excellence Award runner-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Level IV (B) TDA Supply Support Activity: Regional Supply Support Activity (AEJ), Director of Logistics, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Germany.
			FY 10 USAREUR Supply Excellence Award honorable mentions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Category Level I (B) TDA, Company/Battery/Troop or Detachment: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.Category Level III (A) MTOE Battalion/Squadron: 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.Category Level IV (A) Supply Support Activity, MTOE: Supply Support Activity (WQ4), Alpha Company, 412th Aviation Support Battalion, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Katterbach, Germany.

CSA helps launch IMCOM campaign plan

IMCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS
News Release

SAN ANTONIO – Soldiers. Civilians. Families. For nearly nine years, these three pillars of the Army community have made history during their support of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the resulting wear and tear is evident – even on those not serving on the front lines.

Indeed, "The Army will not break because of its Soldiers, but the wear and tear on families is almost unbearable," said Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of Installation Management Command.

Lynch speaks from experience; his family has faced its own separation of war. The general, who served as commander of the Multinational Division-Center in Iraq, and his wife of almost three decades, Sarah, have been apart four of the last seven years.

During a recent visit to garrisons in Europe, the IMCOM commander noted that the couple's relationship has stood the test of time. "But while being apart is a strain in our relationship, can you ... imagine the strain ... in a family that's newly married with newborn children?"

Accordingly, Lynch unveiled the Installation Management Campaign Plan, March 29. He called the IMCP a "roadmap for supporting the warrior now and in the future," along with civilians and Army families.

The plan is also just a beginning. The general said the installation management community's challenge now is to determine, "How can we do a better job of taking care of Soldiers and families? That's why we exist; that's the essence of our being."

He called the plan an overall strategy for the installation management community.

His intent? To execute the IMCP along six lines of effort: Soldier, family and civilian readiness; Soldier, family and civilian well-



Photo by D. Myles Cullen

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George Casey Jr. and President of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan head to the AUSA's 2010 Army Installations Symposium & Exposition in San Antonio, Texas, March 29.

being; leader and workforce development; installation readiness; safety; and energy efficiency and security.

As part of the campaign plan roll-out conference, Lynch invited Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George Casey Jr. to share his assessment of where the service stands and his thoughts on how the installation management community will continue to provide a vital role not only in supporting the Army family but in operating installations more efficiently and

effectively as well.

As part of a one-hour presentation, Casey touched on his 2010 objectives, including this trio: Continue efforts to restore balance; refine of the Army of the 21st century; and sustain Soldiers, families and civilians.

The Army's top officer said the service has made significant progress in rebalancing itself from the demands and stresses of more than eight and a half years of combat – and is moving aggressively to further support Soldiers and

“The Army will not break because of its Soldiers, but the wear and tear on families is almost unbearable.”
Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Commander, Installation Management Command

families of the all-volunteer force in the expected decade of conflict ahead.

Casey, now in his third year as chief of staff, believes the most important element for putting the Army back in balance is increasing dwell time. As he told a Senate panel in February and the approximately 1,000 people in the San Antonio audience: "What we continue to see ... is the cumulative effects of these deployments."

Studies show, he noted, that two to three years of dwell time is needed to recover from one year of serving downrange. Therefore, the Army has increased dwell time from 12 to 18 months and plans by the end of 2011 for all Soldiers to have two years at home following a year of deployment.

Casey candidly told conference participants that in 2007 the Army was out of balance and could not meet the demands place on it. To rebalance the force by 2011, the Army embarked on a plan based on four imperatives: sustain Soldiers for

See CAMPAIGN, page 25

Army debuts new, integrated tools to defeat IEDs

**RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND
ENGINEERING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
News Release

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, Mich. – Soldiers spoke and the Army listened. Officials introduced a new device designed to combat the deadly threat of improvised explosive devices during a Florida conference in March.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's tank and automotive center publicly displayed its newest technology for the first time at the National Defense Industry Association's Ground Robotic Capabilities Conference and Exhibition in Miami, Fla., March 16-18.

The Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center displayed military robots in an industrywide push for interoperability during the event. To highlight the theme "Dual Role of Robotics Technologies - Public and Private Sector," the conference brought warfighters, first responders and government and industry technology professionals together to address increased responsiveness to user needs.

The center introduced Tanglefoot, a device designed to be attached to more than 8,000 currently-fielded robots. Tanglefoot combines an interface kit, wire rake and mast to create a low-cost, universal tool to assist the defeat of IEDs and route clearance.

Improvised explosive devices are the most deadly threats to United States and coalition forces today and are responsible for nearly two-thirds of casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The conference's focus included how the best ideas from the military, automotive industry and NASA can be shared.

"The Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center plans to take advantage of the conference to spur cooperation between government agencies and private partners," said Dave Thomas, TARDEC Intelligent Ground Systems associate director. "This year, TARDEC will unveil a technology that was directly requested from our warfighters as well as focus on how we can get the entire robotic community working together on communications challenges."

The Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve current force effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for the future force.

Army officials said the Tanglefoot initiative demonstrates the importance of collaborative efforts.

"The teaming of TARDEC and the Robotics Systems Joint Project Office made this possible, said Maj. Chad Harris, assistant project manager for maneuver support systems.

"The Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center rapidly developed and tested the device, then transferred it to us for fielding. This collaboration helps the warfighter get the best equipment he or she needs to be effective."

At the show, TARDEC also demonstrated how multiple robots can be operated by a single controller. While TARDEC demonstrated this capacity with PackBot and Omni Directional Inspection System robots and an iPod Touch, an iPad - or similar device - was leveraged to show this capability and how diverse systems can work together to better optimize and integrate future technology.



Courtesy photo

The U.S. Army unveils the newest technology to assist Soldiers in finding and disarming improvised explosive devices during the National Defense Industry Association's Ground Robotic Capabilities Conference and Exhibition in Miami, Fla., March 16-18.

Access Control Point program in Europe proving successful

by WILLIAM SCOTT FARROW
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville's Access Control Point program is only two-thirds complete in Europe and already faster secured access to the upgraded installations is proving the program successful.

However, delivery truck drivers and daily commuters aren't the only people happy with the improvements at more than a hundred installation gates in Europe.

Edward Wells, physical security specialist and director of emergency services, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, Germany, said he's impressed with the security improvements designed to increase the protection of assets and personnel throughout U.S. Army Europe. He also said the final advantage of the upgrades is in reducing the costs associated with manning the gates.

Wells said the ACP project at USAG Hohenfels will result in annual cost savings of approximately \$635,000. He said future upgrade projects will add another \$400,000 in savings there.

He said he was even more impressed with how attentive Huntsville Center and USACE Europe District engineers were in meeting his installation's specific needs.

"They allowed us (at the installation level) to provide the direction on how we wanted the ACP to be designed and to provide the most functionality for the garrison mission," Wells said. "As a

result, we have achieved improved functionality, increased security and provided greater safety from the 'gate' we had."

Realizing it's easy for the engineers who designed and implemented the upgrades and the people working in the security career-field to see the improvements in the processes relating to gate security, Wells explained that the greatest proof of improvement comes from the comments from people using the ACPs to gain access to the installation.

"I have heard from the guards that the people using the new ACPs can't believe how much faster it seems they (guards) can process vehicles through (the gates). Those improvements were long overdue and I know they appreciate everything that was done," Wells said.

With more than 100 installation gates receiving improvements to date, Huntsville Center and USACE Europe District engineers realize the importance of working closely with stakeholders to overcome obstacles and ensure delivery and installation of ACP equipment and facilities to meet the specific needs of the stakeholders.

According to Bill Samples, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District ACP project manager, successful solutions are a combination of the critical information exchange between Corps ACP representatives and force protection officers, who must live with the solution and protect those who work and visit their compound.

Samples said because installations across Europe are usually embedded within a community, they almost never have the real estate available for increasing search areas and installing facilities required to process visitors through the gates.

"Here, and at many other installations (worldwide), the force protection solutions require careful analysis and equipment placement," Samples said.

A perfect example, according to Samples, is NATO Support Activity Brussels (an installation providing administrative and logistical support to U.S. agencies and personnel located in Brussels) is because it is a small installation with multiple ACPs located with a main thoroughfare on one side of the installation and a residential street on the other.

"In Europe, solutions must often be innovative to provide the compliant level of protection, to facilitate safe travel in and out of the facility, and to meet the very stringent requirements of the customer regarding the use of their funds. Additionally, host nation requirements must be met, and they vary from country to country," Samples said.

Wells said USAG Hohenfels is a perfect example of how well all parties involved pulled together to achieve the mission.

"When we started this project, we needed to improve functionality, increase security, improve safety and reduce contract guard manning," Wells said. "We've pretty much covered those areas."

Behavioral Health Services opens new building at Grafenwoehr

Story and photo by
JENNIFER WALSH
BMEDDAC Public Affairs

Two years ago, behavioral health services in Grafenwoehr consisted of one provider and a very small office in the clinic. Today, Grafenwoehr beneficiaries find themselves with behavioral health resources that are far more impressive.

Most recently, the behavioral health clinic staff moved from temporary trailers into a new 2.1 million dollar clinical building. Joint Multinational Training Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the clinic, April 1. During the ceremony, speakers reflected on the clinic's humble beginnings and the community's current behavioral health needs.

"The strains of war often manifest themselves in behavioral and emotional ways," said Lt. Col. Stephen Franco, behavioral health clinic chief. "Grafenwoehr's new behavioral health clinic is a symbol of this reality and reflects the Army's initiative to make room for this part of the Soldier's experience just as it makes room for the physical wounds that go with combat experience."

In addition to a new home, the



Joint Multinational Training Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar joins members of the Bavaria Medical Department Activity as they cut the ribbon on a 2.1 million dollar behavioral health clinic on Main Post, April 1.

clinic has steadily increased its staff and now includes providers such as social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. With more providers on board, services were expanded and now include: adult psychiatry and psychological services, adult counseling services, marital therapy, social work services and command

support consultations. The clinic also provides services for children.

"Our child and adolescent psychiatrist and social workers use specialized assessment methods and equipment to evaluate infants and children," Franco said. "We're also in the process of adding a staff member to provide additional child

therapy services."

Overall, Franco said the goal of the behavioral health clinic is to provide accessible, quality health care to Soldiers and their families. However, community support can also play a role in healthy Soldiers.

"We recognize that meeting the needs of our Army amid a rapid operations tempo really requires much more than the dedication of our professionals who will work in this physical structure," said Col. Steven Brewster, Bavaria Medical Department Activity commander. "We must work as a community to care for Soldiers and families in need. Our Army understands this challenge more now than at any other time in our organization's history."

One of the licensed clinical social workers assigned to the behavioral health clinic agreed that to be successful everyone needs to work together.

"The units should know that we're all working toward the same goal of keeping Soldiers in the fight," said Capt. Matthew Shannon.

Beneficiaries can make a behavioral health appointment by calling DSN 475-7152, CIV 09641-83-7152, or by making an appointment in person at the behavioral health clinic in building 507 on Main Post.

Combat medics change with the times

by **JERRY HARBEN**
MEDCOM Public Affairs

An eight-year process to transform the training and skills of Army combat medics culminated last year as all members of the old 91B Military Occupational Specialty became qualified as 68W health care specialists. A group of past and present leaders of Army Medicine gathered March 9, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to celebrate this event.

Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon, the top enlisted Soldier for U.S. Army Medical Command, noted the anniversary of the Hospital Corps, the original organization for enlisted medical personnel in the Army, which was established March 1, 1887. She briefly described conditions for those early medics, and then added, "today the Army has a superior, trained, capable and credentialed combat medic."

Health care specialist (68W) medics all qualify as emergency medical technicians. They are trained in advanced airway skills, hemorrhage control techniques, shock management and evacuation. All Soldiers in the new MOS must recertify their skills every two years and must earn 72 hours of continuing education credits during those two years.

"The essence of our professionalism and our ethos is embodied in our combat medics," said Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, surgeon general of the Army and commander of Medical Command.

"The stories told by our wounded about the heroism of medics bring tears to our eyes and lumps to our throats," he added.

Keynote speaker for the event was retired

Lt. Gen. James Peake, former Army surgeon general and former secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"When you see a Soldier without a leg, and with an external fixator on his other leg, and he says, 'I was lucky that day because I was with my medic in my vehicle, that's why I'm here,' ... that's what it boils down to," Peake said.

Peake began the process that led to the 68W MOS when he commanded the Army Medical Department Center and School. He discussed the process of improving training, adding simulation technology and reengineering the second-largest MOS in the Army.

"This was an opportunity to take medical care much farther forward than we had been able to before, with a higher level of technical enablement and skill," Peake said.

Peake added that the process of improving training continues.

"It is made better by continually listening to Soldiers, continually shaping the way that training is done," he said. "When you talk to those who have earned the Silver Star or the Distinguished Service Cross, and we've had those in medics, they say, 'I was just doing my job. I was just doing what I was trained to do,'" he said.

Following the remarks, Soldiers of the 232nd Medical Battalion staged a brief demonstration of the 68W's advanced ability to save lives on the battlefield.

Two groups of Soldiers portrayed a modern squad and one from the 91B era, both treating a thigh wound. While the 91B medic went through a series of procedures to attempt to stop bleeding and then administer an intravenous fluid, the 68W



Sgt. Christopher Giddinge, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease, Fort Detrick, Md., won the Combat Medic (68W) transition poster contest with this entry.

quickly applied a Combat Application Tourniquet and prepared the casualty for evacuation by a Stryker armored ambulance.

The 68W medic's patient was well on his way to advanced care at a combat support hospital before the 91B began to carry his patient off the battlefield to a waiting unarmored vehicle.

"This goes much further than an MOS redesignation, it is truly re-engineering the combat medic," said Master Sgt. James Kinser during the narration of the demonstration.

Parents play major role in preventing falls

by **Lt. Col. GWENDOLYN DAVIS**
BMEDDAC Preventive Medicine

Every parent wants to protect their children from harm so they can live to their full potential. Knowing how to prevent leading causes of accidents, like falls, is a step toward this goal.

According to recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falls are the leading cause of nonfatal injuries for all children from birth to 19 years of age. Each day, approximately 8,000 children are treated in United States emergency rooms for fall-related injuries. This adds up to almost 2.8 million fall-related injuries in children each year.

Thankfully, many falls can be prevented. Parents and other caregivers can play a key role in protecting children. The following are just a few tips that can be used to prevent

children from sustaining injuries related to falls:

- Never leave an infant or young child alone on a bed, couch, changing table or anywhere there is a potential the child might fall.
- Never leave infants in infant carriers that are left on a high surface such as a table, counter or chair.
- Use safety gates to block access to stairs and other dangerous areas.
- Equip steps with tread mats or secure carpet to prevent slipping. Install a handrail that children can reach.
- Put screens on windows. Make sure they open from the top and have a barricade in front. Use window guards.
- Teach children safe and unsafe areas for climbing. Shelves and counters are not for climbing.
- Wipe spills immediately.
- Do not use infant walkers, especially near stairs.
- Use only highchairs that have a wide base so they cannot easily tip over.
- Install child car seats or booster seats correctly and use properly.
- Supervision is the key. Always supervise young children around fall hazards such as stairs, playground equipment and everyday hazards in the home.

For more, contact the Bavaria Medical Department Activity preventive medicine or community health nursing offices at DSN 476-3559/2165, CIV 09662-83-3559/2165 or Bavaria.prevmed@amedd.army.mil.

a shot of advice

by **Lt. Col. STEPHEN LINCK**
BMEDDAC

Q. The new health care bill allows children to stay on their parent's health care plan until they're 26 if their employer doesn't offer insurance. Will Tricare adopt this policy as well?

Thanks, Parent in Poppenricht

A. Dear Parent,
Thanks for sending this question. I have heard it asked many times. The short answer is no, Tricare will not implement a policy change at this time. The current age limits of 21, or 23 if the dependent is a full-time student, are set by federal statute. I am not a politician so I don't know why it wasn't written in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, but it would literally require another act of Congress to extend the age to 26. For additional information, I recommend the following Web sites: www.tricare.mil or www.healthreform.gov.



Linck

Q. I have a buddy that could use some counseling. He's having relationship problems and he's been drinking a lot more. At first, I thought it was him adjusting to being back, but now I think it may be a problem. I mentioned counseling, but he blew me off. Is there anything else I can do?

Worried in Weiden

A. Dear Worried,
I commend you for looking out for your buddy. Unfortunately, unless he is a danger to himself or to others we as medical people or behavioral health professionals can't intervene. Your best approach is to find out why he is so reluctant to seek help. Most people think they can handle things by themselves and don't think they need help. Also, drinking is a way of self-medicating.

Forcing the issue with him may backfire and cause problems between the two of you. Your unit or the garrison chaplain is probably your best bet at this point. They have strict rules on confidentiality and can offer help and advice on how to look after your buddy. Most important is to make sure he is not having suicidal thoughts. Alcohol and relationship problems put him at risk, so keep an eye on him. If you determine he is suicidal, inform your chain of command immediately.

Q. My wife recently tested positive for Chlamydia. We have been married for five years and she's never tested positive before. I accused her of cheating on me while I was deployed. She said the doctor told her it's possible she's been carrying the STD for several years and it's just now showing up in the tests. Is this possible? Or is she trying to pull a fast one?

Thanks, Raging in Regensburg

A. Dear Raging,
There are a lot of "ifs" in this question. Chlamydia is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections in humans precisely because sometimes it has no symptoms. I don't have enough information to tell you she is trying to put one over on you. Men with Chlamydia rarely have symptoms so it is possible that you have had the disease for several years as well. There are just too many unknowns at this time. Regardless of where it came from, what is most important is that you both get treated. Your clinic public health nurse can provide you with more information about treatment options.

For information specific to the ASBP program, their Web site is www.militaryblood.dod.mil. You can find all of the restrictions on donating at their Web site. Thanks again for your service and willingness to help.

If you need a shot of advice, e-mail your question to brmc-pao@amedd.army.mil.

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

BBQ and Flea market

The Kindergarten in Huetten invites you to a BBQ and Flea Market, May 2, from noon-5 pm. Come to enjoy good food, hunt for treasures or sell your own items. There will also be coffee and a bake sale. For more, call CIV 09641-45-4043.

American Legion

An American Legion Post is, basically, Americans taking care of Americans. If you, or anyone you know, have a desire to join the American Legion, contact Pat Bradley, CIV 09605-925770, or e-mail pjbradley52@yahoo.com.

Ammo Amnesty Day

ASPI, JMTC Safety and USAG Grafenwoehr Safety will be conducting a “No questions asked” Amnesty Turn-In Day, April 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., next to the recycle center across from Range 118 on Chancellorsville Road.

Ammunition Quality Assurance and EOD will be present to ensure turn in and disposal occurs safely. We are encouraging everyone to turn in contraband ammunitions or explosives in their possession.

For more, contact J.P. Meyer, USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Officer, at 475-7769.

Community Huddle

The next Community Huddle will be April 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Tower View Restaurant, Main Post, Bldg. 209. Hosted by Col. Chris Sorenson, USAG Grafenwoehr commander, the Huddle is a monthly meeting for all community members combining previous meetings (i.e., Town Hall, Senior Spouses Roundtable).

This meeting is a great opportunity to find out the latest info on programs, events, construction updates, and other important issues. Garrison directors and subject matter experts will brief topics and answer questions.

Spouses Bus Tour

USAG Grafenwoehr invites all newly arrived spouses to become familiar with the garrison. Join us every Wednesday on a bus tour of the Main Post and Rose Barracks. Bus departs from the In Processing Training Center, Building 166, Rose Barracks, at 1 p.m. and returns at 3:30 p.m. Gather information on community agencies, housing and recreation.

The Child Development Center will provide free childcare to participating spouses.

For more, contact the Central Processing Facility at DSN 476-2101, CIV 09662-83-2101.

Ride your bike to work

Get fit and be kind to the planet at the same time. In celebration of Earth Day and Week, April 19-21, freebies will be given to everyone who enters by bicycle through Main Post gates 1, 3 & 6 and Rose Barracks Gate 1, from 6:30-8 a.m.

Earth Day celebration

Join the Grafenwoehr-Vilseck community at the Main Post Shopping Center, April 22, from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., for the following Earth-friendly events:

- Energy Saving - Try pedaling the energy bike and generate energy with your muscles; inform yourself in the E-on mobile on how to save energy; get to know how photovoltaic modules work.

- Flea Market - Sell or trade items you don’t need instead of throwing them away.

We will provide tables and benches. Registration required no later than April 16: DSN 475-6664 or e-mail helmut.bueller@us.army.mil.

- County Office Neustadt Waldnaab - Make a nice handicraft of TetraPak. The SORT coordinator of the county office of Neustadt/Waldnaab will show you how.

- Town of Weiden - Pot your own geranium plant with the city gardener of Weiden. Learn all about making compost.

- Nature Protection - Nature quiz to win a prize, try to make a bird’s nest.

- Recycling - SORTING game, see different recycling container solutions, do the recycling quiz (prizes to win), videos (shredder-plant, Green Dot, free balloons)

- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) - Disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in regular trash is prohibited by German law.

Get information on how and where to dispose of electrical waste. Bring your unusable electrical gadgets such as phones, radios and clocks; container provided at the PX.

- Integrated Training Area Management - Get information on environmental protection and military training.

Watch for more information and details to appear in later newsletters, in the *Bavarian News*, on the command information channel, your community Web site at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil and on AFN-Bavaria.

Sexual Assault Awareness

Informational displays are posted throughout the garrison.

- Sex Signals Tour, April 20. An interactive performance on prevention of sexual assault will be held at the Main Post Tower Theater and Memorial Fitness Center, Rose Barracks; times have not been finalized.

- Women’s Self Defense Seminars with basic instruction on self defense techniques and safety will be held at following locations.

All women welcome, April 25, 1-3 p.m., Memorial Fitness Center, Rose Barracks; and April 30, 1-3 p.m., Main Post Fitness Center.

For more, contact the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator at DSN 476-2650, CIV 09662-83-2650.

2SCR Deployment Fair

The 2SCR is hosting a Deployment Fair, April 20-22, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Bldg. 134, Rose Barracks, to allow our families time to meet with all of the agencies on post. The intent is to provide them with information to empower them before, during and after the deployment.

For more, contact Tiffany Hudgins, DSN 476-5100, CIV 09662-83-5100 or tiffany.n.hudgins@eur.army.mil.

Housing Survey

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utilities and Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Expense Survey for (Germany) will be conducted between April 1- 30.

The survey is intended for ALL military personnel who reside off-post/base in privately leased or rental housing. The web address to access the survey will be located on the USAREUR Home-Page under “Hot Topics.”

This web address provides a direct link to the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) on-line survey. For more, Mr. Randall D. Ries, DSN 370-3884, randall.ries@eur.army.mil; or Mr. William Gordon, DSN 370-3888, bill.gordon@eur.army.mil.

Summer Hire

What are you doing this summer? Work in an office or outdoors with the Summer Hire Program, Employment for family members ages 14-22.

Applications are currently being accepted. For more or to apply click on the Summer Hire link at: <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur>, Select “Employment,” “Summer Hire Program 2010”.

Vilseck Rugby Club Training

The Vilseck Rugby Club practices every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 6 -7:30 p.m., at Dragoon Field on Rose Barracks.

Matches take place on Saturdays. Rugby is a physically demanding yet social sport where the fun happens as much off the pitch as it does on.

For more, contact Dan Fraizer at daniel.frazier@eur.army.mil, or 1st Lt. Michael Berdela at michael.berdela@eur.army.mil.

Hot-Air Balloon Rides

Take a hot-air balloon ride in 91541 Rothenburg, Tauberwiesen (Detwang subdivision). Hot-air balloons will fly daily if the weather is good. All details and points of contact are listed at www.happy-ballooning.de/buero.php?page=termin. Start times in April are 6 p.m.; in May, 6:30 p.m.; and 7 p.m. in June and July.

Fun and Fractions

Join “Fun and Fractions,” April 30, 5 -7 p.m., in the Netzaberg Elementary School’s Multipurpose Room, for its 2nd Annual Family Math Night Out for a chance to learn and spend a great time with a parent or other grown-up. Kids: show off and practice all the things you’ve been doing in math together.

PTSA will be selling hot dogs/drinks/ chips for dinner. For more, contact Mrs. Kalina at DSN 472-9185.

Parent volunteers: Help improve Netzaberg Elementary for our students as part of the Continuous School Improvement Process (CSI). You, as a parent, have a unique perspective we really need to make our plan fly. Let your child’s teacher know if you would like to join our CSI team.

For more, contact Barbara Mueller, Kitty Clarke or Mary Corrigan at DSN 472-9185, CIV 09645-917-9185.

Hohenfels Briefs

Berlin

Discover the German capital of Berlin, April 17. Let ITR take you on a city tour of some of the major sites including the Brandenburg gate, the Berlin Wall memorial site, Checkpoint Charlie and much more.

After the tour, you will have plenty of free time to discover all of the beauty of the city at your own pace. Bus will depart Hohenfels from ODR, Bldg. H15, at 5 a.m. and return to Hohenfels around midnight.

Cost is \$85 per person which includes the city tour and transportation. Seating is limited to the first 50 customers, so call to reserve your seats today.

For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

ATV training course

Riders must complete a training course before participating in ATV trail rides. Courses will be held April 17 and 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The price for training is \$75. Full day trail rides are \$50 and half days are \$35. The price includes ATV, safety equipment and lunch for full day rides.

Call Outdoor Recreation to register for the course, DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Box Run

Get ready for the USAG Hohenfels annual Box Run, April 24. Run 10K or run or walk 5K, it’s your choice. Race begins at 9 a.m., \$10 entry fee. First 100 registrants receive a free T-shirt.

Awards will go to the top two finishers in each category and the largest participating unit. Register through WebTrac or contact FMWR Sports & Fitness at DSN 466-2868/2883, CIV 09472-83-2868/2883.

Golf Tournament

The spring golf tournament will be held at the Habsberg Golf Course, April 23. The registration deadline is April 19; only 18 four-person team slots available.

The entry fee is \$50, lunch is 12 euro (optional). Check-in begins at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Register on WebTrac, www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil, or contact FMWR Sports & Fitness at dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil.

Month of the Military Child

To show our appreciation for the children and families of USAG Hohenfels,

join us in a monthlong celebration which will include lots of free family fun.

For more, contact Parent Central Services in Bldg 10, DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2078.

- April 15: Trip to Geiselwind, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at Bldg. 10. Free transportation.

- April 16: Bouncer Day, 12-6 p.m. at the Post Gym, Bldg 88. Free.

- April 22: Kinderfest, 2-6 p.m. at the SAC, Bldg. 112. Free.

- April 24: “Tooth Fairy” movie will be shown at the Post Theater, 2 p.m. Free admission and free snacks for children.

- April 30: Teen lock-in, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Youth Center, Bldg. 72.

Catholic Baptism Class

If you want to get your child baptized in the Catholic faith, bring a lunch and come find out more, April 23, noon- 1 p.m.

RSVP no later than April 21. To RSVP or for more information contact Lisa Fisher at DSN 466-2226, CIV 09472-83-2226 or lisa.fisher3@eur.army.mil.

Kontakt Club events

The day trip to the Deutsches Museum in Munich, originally scheduled for March 6 and cancelled due to the weather, will be held April 17.

For more, contact Andy Kirschenbauer at andreas@kirschenbauer.de.

All are welcome to meet at Josef’s Taverne in the village of Hohenfels for the monthly club Stammtisch, regular dinner, April 21 beginning at 7 p.m. For more, call DSN 466-3403, CIV 09472-83-3403.

The Kontakt Club is a German-American friendship organization sponsored by the U.S. Army that includes Soldiers, families, other Americans supporting USAG Hohenfels, and German citizens from the surrounding communities.

The Hohenfels community is invited to participate in the club’s upcoming activities.

For more information or directions to the events call the Public Affairs Office at DSN 466-2457 or visit the club’s Web site at www.kontaktclub-hohenfels.org.


Craft Fair


The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club’s annual spring craft fair will be held May 1.

We are looking for crafters to sell their homemade goods. If you make it, you can sell it.

E-mail Angelique.dilmore@eur.army.mil if you are interested in participating or need more information.

Everyday Heroes
in your Community






APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The Army is committed to Military Youth. ARMY FAMILY COVENANT: Keeping the Promise

www.ARMYYoneSource.com

Jewelry Making Classes



Watch Class
April 9
Make your own, one of a kind watch. The watch face and all beading supplies are included with the class. Fee: \$30

Jewelry Set Class
April 17
Learn to make earrings and a matching necklace or bracelet, your choice. Fee: \$30

ID/Mother's Bracelet Class
April 30
Get ready for Mother's Day by making your Mom or yourself a special present - a Mother's bracelet. Put the name of the kids, (up to 4 names), on a handmade Swarovski and sterling silver bead bracelet. Or, make a baby/little girl's bracelet for the princess in your life. Fee: \$25

Illusion Necklace Class
May 7
Make a necklace that appears to float around your neck by magic. We will use illusion cord and Swarovski crystals or pearls to create up to a 3 strand necklace. Fee: \$20

Chain Maille Bracelet Class
May 21
Learn the ancient art of chain maille. We will learn 2 of the chain maille weaves, the Byzantine and the Queen's Link, to make two bracelets. Find out what many little jump rings can make. Fee: \$25

Earring Class
June 5
Make several pairs of earrings from beads and sterling silver/gold-filled findings. We will learn to wrap headpins and attach them to earwires. Take home several pairs of earrings from the class. Fee: \$18

Bracelet Class
June 25
Learn to string a bracelet using beads, crystals, sterling silver beads, and more. Discover the use for a toggle and crimp beads. Bracelets don't takedown to make which equals instant gratification. Take home a self-styled, one of a kind bracelet from the class. Fee: \$25

All classes are from noon - 2 p.m. and include all supplies.

Heart & Home Craft Shop

Main Post Grafenwoehr, Bldg. 607
DSN 475-6101, CIV 09641-83-6101

What’s Happening

Garmisch Briefs

FMWR Trips

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center. For more on any of these FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Outdoor Recreation Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638. Sign up for these trips and more at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Garmischrectrac.html>.

Brewery of the Month

April 24: Visit a monastery brewery in Weltenburg, the oldest operating brewery in the world. With its modern equipment the brewery is not only a technical jewel – but, with its Jurassic spring water and an ancient brewing recipe following the Benedictine tradition – these elements, combined in a perfect production process, emphasizes the outstanding quality of this 2008 World Cup Gold medal winning beer. Cost is \$125.

Venice

April 23-25: View great art and architecture, the pigeons in St. Mark’s Square, gondolas, good places to eat, and more. In addition, we tour Verona, the Romeo and Juliet city with the great Roman Arena and a wonderful restaurant. Cost is \$290 plus €100-200 to cover museum entrances, food, public transportation, souvenirs, etc.

Prague

April 30-May 2: Prague is often on the top of everyone’s list of places to visit in the old world. There will be a “daytime tour” included in the weekend and tickets can also be arranged for those who want to see a ballet (Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake is playing. Cost is only \$270 for the weekend. A minimum of 12 people are required before the trip can take place; a maximum or 14 people can attend.

The Scorpions

May 8: See the well-known German rock back at the Olympiahalle. FMWR always runs a bus to the performance for the cost of \$12. Does not include concert ticket.

Brewery of the Month

May 14-16: Visit the Stiegl Brauwelt, the largest brewing museum in Europe,

in Salzburg, Austria, and the Grassl Enzian Brennerei in nearby Berchtesgaden. Trip includes all transportation and admissions, as well as 2 night’s lodging at the beautiful and historic Hinterbrand Lodge. Cost is \$99.

Munich music

May 18: Classical music. Tickets prices for concerts or operas range from €5-100. FMWR always runs a bus to the performance for the cost of \$12, and available seats are reserved to spend an evening in Munich.

Shakespeare Play: Hamlet

May 19: There will be a 50-minute talk on one of the greatest of all Shakespeare’s plays. This is the equivalent of a college lecture at any major university. Then we will show the much-acclaimed film of the play with Mel Gibson and Glenn Close. Cost is \$5.

Urbino

May 28-31: Visit Urbino a true Renaissance jewel. Birthplace of Raphael and Bramante (the guy who was mostly responsible for the construction of St. Peter’s in Rome). See the ducal palace, commonly regarded as one of the best structures from the Renaissance period. Visit Perugia; home of some wonderful chocolate confections, take in the magnificent views (the main thoroughfare is grand and stylish) and the see wonderful architecture. Cost is \$475.

Ansbach Briefs

Spring Clean-Up

Spring Clean up week is May 17-21. Free bulk refuse pick up will be May 19, from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. The city of Ansbach will pick up refuse at Army family housing in Katterbach, Bismarck, Bleidorn and Barton Barracks duplex houses. Leased housing (Heilsbronn, Lichtenau and Obereichenbach) bulk refuse pick up is May 19 by Roads and Grounds Dept. Put bulk items on grass by the buildings early morning the day of pick up. Items for pick up include old furniture, lockers, electronic waste, carpets, floor coverings, large television consoles, beds, buckets, mattresses, suitcases, wall units and more. They will not pick up hazardous waste, batteries or tires. The recycling centers in Katterbach and Illesheim are open Mon–Fri, 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m.; Sat, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Visit new library

The Storck Barracks library is now open at its new location across from the PX. Come by and check out the new digs. For more, call Illesheim area support team manager at DSN 467-4515, CIV 09841-83-4515.

1st time vehicle registration

All personnel registering a vehicle for the first time in USAREUR must provide copies of PCS orders assigning them to Germany or their unit of assignment. This includes civilian personnel (AF, NAF, AAFES, etc.). If assignment orders are not received, a memo is required from the working agency authorizing logistical support. This rule is in addition to the normal registration requirements and vehicles will not be registered until the required documents are received. Personnel will also need proof of ownership, proof of third party insurance, ID card, USAREUR license and registration fee. Documentation varies depending on vehicle origin. For more, call Ansbach/Illesheim vehicle registration at DSN 468-7892, CIV 0981-183-7892.

Retiree Appreciation Day

USAG Ansbach Retiree Appreciation Day is April 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Katterbach Gymnasium. The guest speaker is retired Col. Robert Mentell, president, Army in Europe Retiree Council. The RAD is designed with you in mind and is a great source for information for retirees and family members. There will be guest speakers, free medical check-ups and various other services. For more, DSN 467-3301, 09802-83-3301.

Overseas Housing Survey

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utilities and Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Expense Survey for Germany is being conducted online through April 30. All military personnel living off-post in private leased or rental housing should complete this survey. To access the survey, go to www.defensetravel.dod.mil/oha/survey/aprum1.html. Use bills and records of utility expenses for the past 12 months to answer questions on the survey. The Army is also conducting a survey to identify how much service members spend making their lease/rental quarters livable upon initial move-in. Sample expenses include the purchase of major appliances or expenses associated with turning-on utilities. Data collected is used to determine the MIHA Allowance, which is also part of OHA. Service members may take the survey at home with their spouses.

Ride a rollercoaster, visit the outdoor museum and taste the famous Kreuzberg monastery brew. Cost is \$20 including transportation and museum entry. Or join them on a “Night Climbing” tour at Schwebheim Lake, April 24. Cost is \$20, including transportation and ropes course. All trips depart from and return to the Outdoor Recreation Center. Sign up in advance and bring euros for personal expenses. For more or to sign up, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

Paintball Mayhem

Outdoor Recreation’s special April and May offer is Paintball Mayhem, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Conn Paintball Field. Patrons get 25 percent off field fee and equipment rental and save \$20 on a box of paintballs. The special applies to units training and groups reserving the field during the week. For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

Unit level softball

Registration for unit level softball runs April 19-May 4. For more or to register, call DSN 354-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

Joint school registration

Registration for Schweinfurt Elementary School, Schweinfurt Middle School and Bamberg High School runs April 19-23, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Schweinfurt Elementary School. For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

BOSS events

The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers numerous programs monthly. Join them April 20 for a bowling night at Kessler Bowling Center at 7 p.m., or come out for Open Mic Night, April 21 at 7 p.m. at Finney Recreation Center. The next BOSS meeting is April 27 at 2 p.m., and the next BOSS meet and greet is April 29 at 1 p.m., both meet at Finney Recreation Center. For more, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

Parent Teacher conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are April 22 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Schweinfurt Elementary School and Schweinfurt Middle School. Parent teacher conferences at Bamberg High School are also April 22 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Abrams Center. For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

Parent’s Night Out

Register now through April 23 for

Parent’s Night Out, held Friday, April 30, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Children must have current CYSS registration and immunizations at time of reservation. For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09271-96-6517.

Kinderfest at SAC

To celebrate Month of the Military Child, all members of the Schweinfurt community are invited to for free fun and games at the Kinderfest, April 24, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at the School Age Center, Bldg. 575 on Askren Manor. For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk trash pick-up is April 27 at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village and government-leased housing. Place bulk items at curb before 7 a.m. on day of pick-up, but no earlier than the day before. Bulk trash includes only those items too large to transport in your vehicle. For more, call DSN 354-6201, CIV 09721-96-6201.

Community blood drive

The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 15th Engineer Battalion are sponsoring a community blood drive, April 27, at 9 a.m. at Finney Fitness Center. For more, call DSN 486-6497, CIV 06371-86-6497.

Library Book Club

Ledward Library invites you to their adult book club, April 28, at 5:15 p.m. The book title is Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Coffee, tea and treats will be served. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

The Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends and learn where good restaurants are around town? Join Schweinfurt’s Lunch Bunch, April 29 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Brauhaus am Markt. Experience the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome. Bring euros for lunch. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

Right Arm night

The entire community is invited to Right Arm night at 4 p.m., April 29, at Conn Irish Pub (downstairs in the Conn Community Conference Center). Community members are invited to socialize, sip and snack. For more, call CIV 09721-96-6186.

MOUNTAIN BIKE SERIES

APR 17-18 - Aviano AB, Italy
(mountain bike race on 17th and road race on 18th)

MAY 15 - USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany

JUN 5 - USAG Stuttgart, Germany

JUN 12-13 - USAG Kaiserslautern, Germany
(mountain bike race on 12th and road race on 13th)

JUN 19 - USAG Hohenfels, Germany

JUL 17 - USAG Ansbach, Germany

AUG 7 - USAG Bamberg, Germany

AUG 14-15 - Spangdahlem AB, Germany
(road race on 14th and mountain bike race on 15th)

SEP 4 - USAG Garmisch, Germany

SEP 19 - USAG Wiesbaden, Germany

OCT 2 - USAG Hohenfels, Germany
US Forces Championship

OCT 10* - NATO School, Oberammergau, Germany
*Not part of championship series - extra event
Race date 10/10/10, start time 10:10

For more information please contact your local Outdoor Recreation Facility

Schweinfurt Briefs

Youth track and field

Register now through April 15 for track and field for youth ages 6-18. Participants must have current sports physical and CYSS registration. Cost is \$46. For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

Auto Skills Classes

The Auto Skills Center offers fundamental classes on various topics. Join the class “Engine Basics” April 15, or learn about “Advanced Welding” April 22, each from 7-8 p.m. All classes are free and open to all ID cardholders. For more, call DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224.

Community Softball

Register now through April 15 for community softball. For more, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

Sweet Dream Story Time

In honor of the Month of the Military Child, in April, Ledward Library invites kids to a special evening story time, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. They will also offer a weekly children story time, every Wednesday in April and May at 10 a.m. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

Outdoor Recreation trips

Outdoor Recreation offers various trips for community members during April and May. Come out for a trip to the Wasserkuppe, April 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

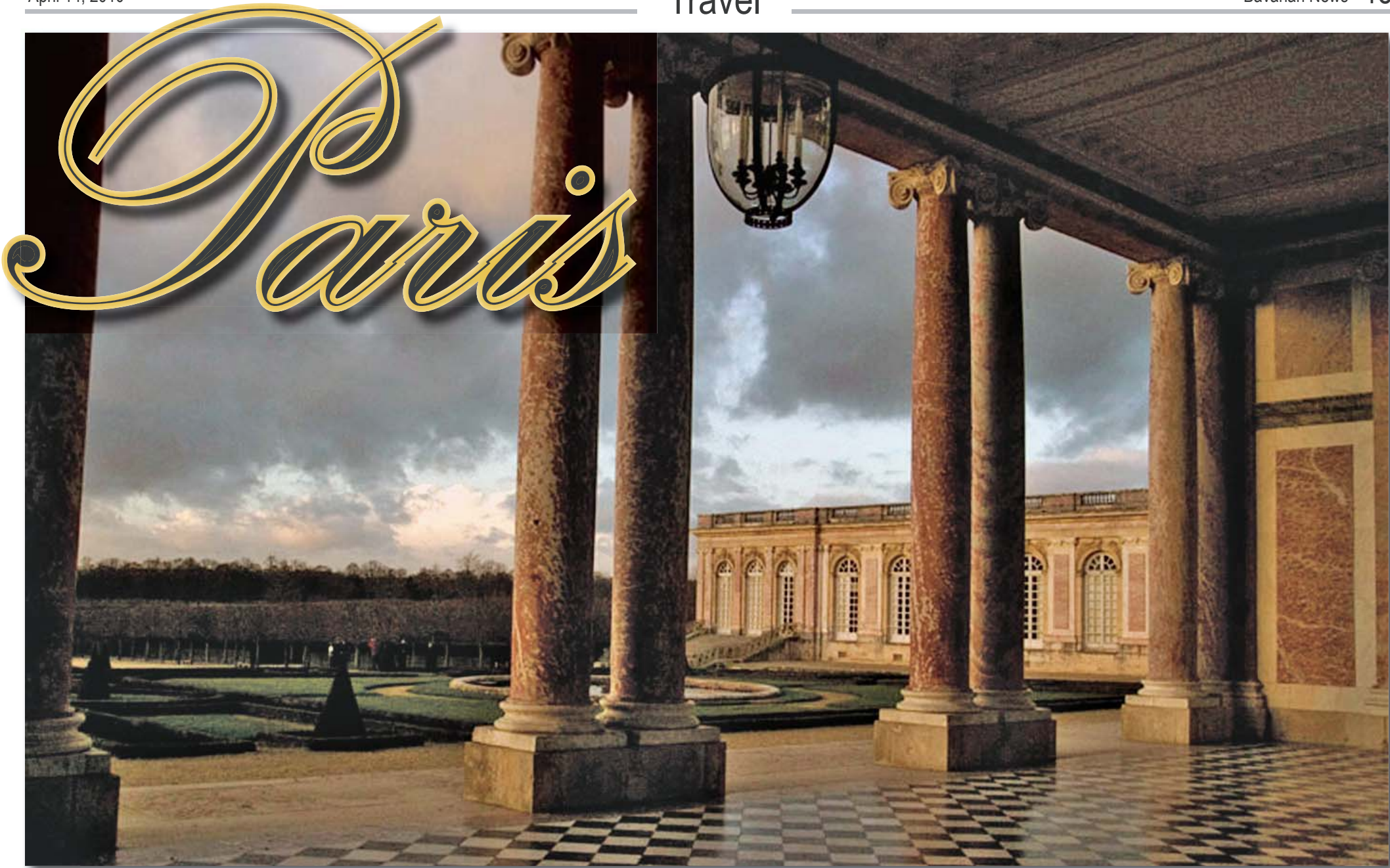
Kinderfest



Sat. April 24: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
School Age Center
Bldg. 575, Askren Manor
USAG Schweinfurt

Enjoy free fun & games for all members of the community.
For information, call: 09721-96-6517/DSN 354-6517

Celebrating the Month of the Military Child



The picture-perfect Palace of Versailles is a unique and elaborate chateau on the outskirts of Paris, inviting tourists into the world of 17th century royalty.

The ideal city for lovers, artists, fashion moguls and architectural enthusiasts

Story and photos by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Bavarian News

Whether it's the city of love or the city of lights, Paris is the cultural capital of Europe, making it the world's top travel destination. The city simply oozes fashion and has long been a haven for artists, musicians, philosophers and creators.

Today, Paris is one of the world's leading business and cultural centers and remains influential in politics, entertainment, fashion, media, science and the arts. Paris' diverse constitution contributes to its status as one of the world's major global cities.

Located in northern France, the densely populated city and its suburbs houses a population of roughly 11 million people and brings in more than 30 million visitors each year.

In the 19th century, artists flocked to Paris to be inspired and create. The same holds true today. Iconic street artists tenant a square on the Place du Tertre in Montmartre, vying to sell passing tourists quick sketch portraits, caricatures or vividly colored views of city.

Art enthusiasts ponder the large scale paintings adorning the walls of the Louvre Museum.



Artists occupy sidewalks through Paris to paint the local scenery and street performers entice tourists with comedic antics, music or tricks in the hopes of earning a few euros.

In addition, Parisian merchants line the streets selling cheap souvenirs you can't live without. (Five keychains for one euro? Yes, please.)

While much of the culture is in the people and the atmosphere that blankets the city, Paris also boasts a few must-do tourist stops.

Tower Power

The Eiffel Tower is Paris' most-recognized icon. Built for the World Exposition of 1889 by Gustave Eiffel, the tower stands 324 meters (1,063 ft) tall. The construction was only meant to last for the duration of the Exposition, but it still stands today, illuminating the sky with a glittering light show every hour in the evenings, as well as providing millions of visitors with breathtaking views of the city year round.

The tower has three levels for visitors. Tickets can be purchased to ascend either by stairs or elevators to the first and second levels. The walk to the first level is over 300 steps, as is the walk from the first to the second level. The third and highest level, towering 525 feet over its second level counterpart, is accessible only by elevator.

Museum Mayhem

As museums go, the Louvre is prodigious. It could take a lifetime to bask in the eight thematic departments and 35,000 pieces of artwork. Visit the Louvre with a plan of action.

The infamous Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo are must-sees, along with works by Caravaggio and Rembrandt. From there, choose what you like and see what you can.

The Louvre's permanent collection includes masterpieces by European masters, as well as unsurpassed Greco-Roman, Egyptian and Islamic arts collections.

Additionally, temporary exhibits often highlight particular artists or movements, from modern day to the classics, and are almost always worthwhile.

The Louvre emerged in the 12th century as a medieval fortress, slowly evolving toward its status as a public arts museum during the French Revolution in the late 18th century. Since then, it has become the world's most-visited museum and an enduring symbol of French excellence in the arts.

To see the bridge between classical and modern art, visit the Musée d'Orsay next.

The Musée d'Orsay houses the largest collection of painting, sculpture, and decorative objects produced between 1848-1914, showcasing many of the most remarkable works of the early modern era.

Visitors welcome a detailed and breathtaking look at modern painting, sculpture, design, and photography, spanning from neoclassicism and romanticism to impressionism, expressionism,

and art nouveau design while viewing works from Van Gogh, Degas, Monet and Gauguin.

In the center of Paris on the banks of the Seine, opposite the Tuileries Gardens, the museum itself is a work of art, installed in the former Orsay railway station.

Monet's water lilies dance in the airy rooms and Boleslas Biegas' sculpture of the Sphinx captivates the passersby. The Musée d'Orsay will ignite the artist in all who visit.

Holy Lands

The famous Sacre Coeur basilica (Basilica of the Sacred Heart) sits at the highest point of Paris on the Montmartre knoll. The formidable hills and stairs are worth your aching calf muscles to view various breathtaking beautiful views of the city. The basilica's famous white architecture dominates the city while the interior contains one of the world's largest religious mosaics. Visit the Sacre Coeur at dusk for a front row seat to an illuminated view of the Eiffel Tower and the city of lights.

Across town, Notre Dame is a marvel of gothic architecture and worth a trip. Its dramatic towers, spire, stained glass and statuary that took over 100 years to complete are jaw dropping. The site of Notre dame is the cradle of medieval Paris and has always been the religious center of the city. Climb the North tower to see Paris from the hunchback Quasimodo's perspective.

Going the Distance

A half hour outside of Paris, the Palace of Versailles is the grand pooh-bah of chateaus. From Marie-Antoinette's decorated estate to the ornate gardens to King Louis the XIV's humble 51,210 square meter chateau, the Palace of Versailles will never cease to amaze. The hall of mirrors is perhaps the most celebrated room in the chateau, combining history (the World War I treaty was

signed in this hall) with unique beauty. Elaborate artwork and furniture saturate each room in wealth and luxury, appropriately fitting for a King, or three.

Louis XIII first erected the building as a small hunting lodge, but Louis XIV built the palace standing today. Each of the three French kings who lived there until the French Revolution added improvements, making it a symbol of royal absolutism, embodying the emotion of classical French art.

After exhausting oneself on the sights and sounds of Paris, take time to relax and indulge in the culture of city, evoking your inner Parisian.

The usual clichés would have us believe that Parisians are always in a hurry, rude and arrogant, although this is a huge misconception. (They don't smell bad, either.) Parisians are culturally enlightened with a unique outlook. They enjoy the good things in life and are extremely inviting to tourists and travelers alike - especially if you put forth a bit of effort in learning a few simple French phrases and the history that surrounds you.

American author Elliot Harold Paul once wrote, "The last time I see Paris will be on the day I die. The city was inexhaustible, and so is its memory."

So while visiting Paris, sip rich red wine and eat garlic-buttered snails, wave good-bye and say "au revoir" to a restaurant proprietor, have cheese for dessert, take in the local theater or listen to live Jazz music in a French café. While in Paris, see the sites but most importantly be a Parisian, if only for a few days.



Garrison increases bus services to Sports Cafe

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

After the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Dining Facility serves its last meal April 30, the Warrior Sports Cafe will become the only dining facility on post. To make sure the transition is a smooth one, the garrison has added a new express service to the post shuttle bus during meal times.

According to a schedule released by the transportation office, beginning May 1 a bus will run during meal times, every 15 to 20 minutes on weekdays and about every 30 minutes on weekends and holidays, between locations near the Warrior Sports Cafe, Warrior Hill Shoppette, Post Exchange and Garrison Dining Facility.

The schedule will be posted at bus stops by April 29, said Georg Braun, transportation supervisor. The on-post express schedules are also available on the Hohenfels Web site at www.hohenfels.army.mil/sites/directorates/logistics.asp.

The shuttle is meant to provide people who live and work near the dining facility an easy way to get to the Warrior Sports Cafe once the dining facility closes, said Ed Jones, garrison director of logistics.

To cut down on traffic congestion, Jones said those driving to the Warrior Sports Cafe are encouraged to park in



Soldiers and family members get breakfast from the Warrior Sports Cafe, April 6. Beginning May 1, the Warrior Sports Cafe will be the only dining facility at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels. Garrison officials and dining facility managers said they are confident the facility can serve any additional customers while retaining their high level of service.

the lot across the street from the DFAC instead of in the spaces surrounding 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment that quickly fill up during lunch.

No matter how they arrive, Kevin Lassiter, Warrior Sports Cafe manager, said customers should find a level of service unchanged by the possible influx of customers once the dining facility closes.

Lassiter said for now the hours for the cafe will remain the same, though he will monitor usage carefully and adjust them in the future if necessary. Lassiter anticipates being able to open an additional breakfast line if necessary, especially since immediately following the closure the

cafe will absorb employees from the dining facility.

As the Warrior Sports Cafe prepares to ramp up its activities, the dining facility is winding down, but not without first saying “thank you” to its customers.

Robert Janey, dining facility manager, said he and his staff will host a Customer Appreciation Day during lunch, April 15.

“We want to show we appreciate the community coming in and supporting us before we close,” said Janey.

Though it will mean some changes on post, closing the dining facility will add up to significant cost savings, according to Jones.

Jones said he estimates that by the end of fiscal year 2010 operating one less dining facility will save the garrison more than \$35,000. By fiscal year 2012, the garrison will be saving more than \$500,000 in labor costs and almost \$70,000 in utilities per year, without affecting the quality of service garrisonwide, said Jones.

“We’ve done an analysis on the number of people we feed at both facilities and we project that by combining them we will be able to feed everyone and still be able to meet the community’s needs,” said Jones.

Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander, made the decision in

See CAFE, page 24

‘Phenomenal women’ share unsurprising similarities

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Sgt. Monica White said she begins most of her days at 4:30 a.m. when she spends a few minutes getting herself ready before waking her 9-month-old twin boys, feeding them, dressing them and getting them in the car for the drive to the child development center.

After dropping them off, she goes to physical training and then to work at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Viper team. Then she works, runs errands at lunch, picks the boys up at five, heads home for dinner, baths and bed and soon it’s time to start it all over again the next day.

After her 2-year-old wakes up each morning, Lisa Simmons, who is expecting her second child in July, said she makes breakfast, picks up the house, gets herself and her daughter ready and drives to post for meetings and errands associated with her many volunteer positions: family readiness group leader, Girl Scouts overseas committee chair, Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club scholarship chair and Army Community Service lead volunteer.

Both women were recognized at the Women’s History Month Luncheon, March 30, at the Warrior Sports Cafe, after being nominated by community members as examples of phenomenal women.

White, Simmons and the 12 other women recognized at the luncheon represent numerous careers and volunteer activities covering a broad range of organizations on post.

Despite the differences among them and the other phenomenal women — some of the nominees were single,

some married; some had children, some did not; some were working moms, some stay-at-home moms — both Simmons and White said they have one basic thing in common: they care, about their family, friends and community, and they work hard to take care of it all.

“As women we’re all just trying to take care of everyone, whether it is our co-workers, neighbors, children or husband,” said White, “and if we can help someone we’re the ones to try to fit it into our schedule after we’ve already said yes.”

“It’s not just what we do but how we do it — we care when we do it. We don’t log volunteer hours just to log volunteer hours, we don’t go to work just to pick up the paycheck, we do it because we care about what we’re doing, to make a positive impact,” said Simmons.

While both admit they are passionate about what they do, each also expressed disbelief that they had been nominated, as if what they do is not enough. White said she was surprised to be nominated because she doesn’t

See WOMEN, page 24



Sgt. Monica White, Joint Multinational Readiness Center Viper team, receives an award from Master Sgt. Chris Mulvihill, JMRC Equal Opportunity advisor, during the Women’s History Month Luncheon, March 30. White and 13 other women were nominated by community members for their phenomenal accomplishments at work, home and while volunteering.

High school student named February Volunteer of the Month



Jeffrey Redden practices for the Hohenfels High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill team after school, April 1.

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Each month, Hohenfels recognizes one of the many volunteers who selflessly give their time and energy to help the community. The Hohenfels Community Volunteers of the Month have been as varied as the organizations they support: they have been Soldiers and spouses, coaches and family readiness group leaders, leaders and mentors.

One of the most recent honorees was a different sort of volunteer, one from a group of people who donate hundreds of volunteer hours each year but sometimes are overlooked.

Jeffrey Redden, the Hohenfels Community Volunteer of the Month for February, is a junior at Hohenfels High School where he serves as the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps command sergeant major and color guard commander.

Redden also volunteers as an official for the Youth Sports wrestling program. He is a Boy Scouts of America Life Scout who is working on earning his Eagle Scout. He is an altar server for St. Michael’s Catholic community and has been on every Club Beyond spring break service trip for the past four years.

In short, Jeffrey Redden is a busy guy.

Though on top of school and friends and sleep it can sometimes make for a hectic schedule, Redden said volunteering is something he just

can’t stop doing.

“Even though I know I’m not getting an award or money or anything, I know that somewhere, somehow, it’s making someone’s life easier. That’s why I do it, to help other people,” said Redden.

The Club Beyond service project is one of the activities Redden is most passionate about. Each year for spring break students travel to another country (past locations have included Poland and the Czech Republic) to work on a community improvement project such as building a school playground.

“At first you think it is going to be a lot of fun, then you get there and you look at those kids — they’re your age living on the road or have no shoes — and it gets to you. I wished we could have been there longer than just one week. It felt like we weren’t there long enough to do enough,” said Redden.

Though he said he highly recommends the service trips and considers them a humbling experience, Redden has also found numerous ways of volunteering his time right at Hohenfels.

Redden said he signed up to help with the Youth Sports wrestling program after years of wrestling himself.

Spc. Will DuVall, Youth Sports wrestling coach and 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment medic, said Redden was an enthusiastic member of the team and a positive role model for the children.

“Jeff was very good and positive toward the youth, definitely someone for them to look up to. He is very mature for his age and has good morals. He’s a really, really good guy,” said DuVall.

While some of his activities are geared toward childhood fun, Redden said some are a way for him to achieve his future goals.

Redden said he hopes his JROTC activities will help him achieve his goal of enlisting in the Army and eventually becoming a Criminal Investigation Division warrant officer.

“This could help me get closer to my dream job of being in the military and serving our country,” said Redden.

“He’s a good kid. He knows right from wrong and he has a good heart,” said retired 1st Sgt. Bruce Andrews, JROTC instructor.

“I think he would be an outstanding Soldier. He understands a lot about the military, discipline and Army values,” said DuVall. “I can see him being some sort of leader.”

In the meantime, Redden said he plans to continue on his busy schedule, even adding to it when he begins work on his Eagle Scout project this summer.

“Sometimes I wish I could do more but I can’t,” said Redden. “I just feel like I can do way more to help more people.”

Though his volunteer resume may continue to grow, slowing down does not seem to be on his “to do” list anytime soon.

Welcome Home Team Apache



Photo by Spc. Tia P. Sokimson

Spc. Zackery Cely provides security from a tower at Forward Operating Base Lane in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 5, 2009.

Company oversees battalion’s transitioning Afghan mission

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Community members, families and friends assembled at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Post Gym, March 26, to welcome home Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment as they returned from a deployment to Zabul Province, Afghanistan, that

began in August 2009. The unit known as Team Apache continued a long line of 1-4th Inf. Regt. companies that have deployed to Zabul Province; since 2006 the battalion has continuously deployed one company at a time to Afghanistan where it partners with the Romanian Army in support of the International Security Assistance Force. Capt. Kyle Wheeler, company commander, said when they first arrived Apache continued what has recently been the 1-4th Inf. Regt. mission of occupying four forward operating bases in the northern part of the province. That mission is

changing, however, and Team Apache Soldiers began moving from the remote FOBs in the north to their new positions along Highway 1, the main road through Afghanistan. According to Wheeler, by the time Apache left Afghanistan two of the four platoons had completed the move to the highway. As 1-4th Inf. Regt. works to transition out of the northern FOBs it has occupied for years, Wheeler said he is proud of the job Team Apache and other 1-4th Inf. Regt. Soldiers have done in the north.

“I think we made a huge difference in many areas, especially Baylough,” said Wheeler. “The locals began turning to us more, not just because of what we did, but because of the progress made up until that point by the other platoons that were there.”

Wheeler said Apache focused heavily on humanitarian aid by providing coats, shoes, wheat and more. He said every available space on a helicopter headed for one of the FOBs would be filled with humanitarian aid. Once there, Soldiers would give the aid to the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police to distribute.

“The local population would receive it from their own people, and I think that’s a step in the right direction,” said Wheeler.

First Lt. Jeff Trammel, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon at FOB Baylough, and Sgt. 1st Class Dave Starnes, platoon sergeant, said building upon previous platoons’ progress,



Photo by Spc. Tia P. Sokimson

Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, carry humanitarian supplies to a village outside Forward Operating Base Baylough in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 13, 2009.

along with goodwill projects such as providing humanitarian aid, helped them establish relationships with the local communities.

“One of our focuses when we got there was to build the relationship with the local populace by showing them someone cares about their well-being, that we were there to help,” said Trammel.

Trammel said building that relationship meant spending time talking to local leaders and even more time listening to their concerns, some of which included improving the town’s clinic and rebuilding a school the Taliban had burned.

“When we first got there people would scatter. Toward the end they would come out of their houses and talk to us, prepare chai and food for us,” said Trammel.

When the community heard they were leaving, some of the leaders even asked if the platoon could stay, Trammel said.

“(Because) they trusted us and

Sgt. Enrique Medina greets his wife Natalie and sons Aurelio, left, and Lesandro, not pictured, upon arriving at Hohenfels after a seven-month deployment.

Photo by Kristin Bradley



Photo by Spc. Tia P. Sokimson

Team Apache Soldiers conduct a dismounted patrol across the Arghandad River to assist Afghanistan National Police with humanitarian relief operations.

knew we were there to help, they would come give us information on the Taliban,” said Starnes.

“We were so close they even started standing up to the Taliban,” Trammel said. “A lot of them just said, ‘No man, you’re not coming in here anymore.’”

As 1-4th Inf. Regt. transitions to its highway security mission in a different part of the country, that connection with the local people is something Soldiers will be working to build again, said Wheeler.

Platoon leaders said the change in location will change the way

See WELCOME, page 24



Photo by Kristin Bradley

Pfc. Daniel Strohofer meets his new son Leonardo for the first time upon returning from his deployment to Afghanistan, March 26.



12th CAB gets European exposure

Story and photo by
Sgt. ANNA K. PERRY

12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

KATTERBACH, Germany – A small group of 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers recently spent a four-day weekend exploring three of Germany’s major cities during a Euro Rail backpacking trip sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program.

Ten Soldiers and two BOSS representatives hopped aboard an inexpensive excursion to Hamburg, Cologne and Berlin, March 19-22. The trip included Intercity Express train passes and youth hostel stays for a low rate.

“Soldiers love to have the opportunity to get out and explore, so we take advantage of that by planning awesome trips,” said Sgt. Wallace Marks, USAG Ansbach BOSS vice president. “Our intent is to get Soldiers out of the barracks and expose them to things they can’t get anywhere else. It would be a shame for a Soldier to live in Europe and never see anything beyond the four walls of their room.”

Marks and his team take care of the logistics – troops just need to show up and have a good time.

The trips are not rigidly structured, and activities are dictated by the troops. The recent group mixed cultural sightseeing with a taste of home. Outings to places like the Chocolate Museum in Cologne, Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, and Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin were interspersed with meals at American restaurants like Hard Rock Cafe and Hooters.

During the trip, Soldiers also learned how to use the S-Bahn and the U-Bahn systems to quickly and cheaply navigate Germany’s cities.

Pvt. Kristen Bacus, a 19-year-old from Mount Vernon, Wash., said she appreciated the chance to get out and explore. Bacus, an air traffic controller with 3rd Airfield Operations Battalion,



Pvt. Kristen Bacus (left), 1st Lt. Jeffrey Howard and Pvt. Meghan Elliott check out a piece of machinery at the Cologne Chocolate Museum during a four-day Euro Rail backpacking trip sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program. The trip, held March 19-22, included visits to Cologne, Hamburg and Berlin.

58th Aviation Regiment, said the BOSS journey was the first time she had ventured much farther than Illesheim.

“I loved it overall and will definitely do other BOSS trips,” Bacus said. “It’s all what you make it, and I feel I made the most of this one.”

Bacus said she particularly enjoyed a visit to the Church of St. Michael in Hamburg, which offers a full view of the city from the building’s clock tower.

The majority of Soldiers on the excursion were young troops recently arriving to Germany, although a few single noncommissioned officers and one single officer also participated.

Marks stressed that BOSS is for all single Soldiers, regardless of rank or age. He said he encourages single service members to participate in upcoming BOSS events, including a three-day Berlin tour in April and a four-day Spain trip in May.

Ansbach embraces I. A.M. Strong Tour

Story and photo by
Sgt. ANNA K. PERRY

12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

KATTERBACH, Germany – Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach community came out in full force for the I. A.M. Strong Tour held at the Storck Barracks movie theatre, March 17. Soldiers, leaders and family members filled the seats for an evening of entertainment focusing on the Army’s message of sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention.

“Normally, when the Army wants to tell you something, they put it in a PowerPoint and play it for 40 hours straight,” joked opening act Drew Thomas, a professional comedian.

The tour was anything but “death by PowerPoint.” Headlining the event was recording artist Leigh Jones, who performed a number of songs from her “Music in My Soul” album, as well as a Michael Jackson tribute. The Chicago-based hip-hop group Animate Objects also performed.

Former American Idol finalist Keisha Taylor was an audience favorite whose powerful singing voice garnered endless whistles and cheers.

The tour was extra special for Ansbach because one of its own represented. Sgt. Daniel Bullock, president of U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, wowed the audience with his raps featuring the tour’s “Intervene, Act, Motivate” theme. Bullock, who performs under the name Danny Bee, has been touring with the G-1-sponsored program for several months.

“Sgt. Bullock was awesome – the best performance of the night – although the entire show was extremely motivational and inspiring. This was a fantastic way to get the message of sexual harassment and assault prevention across to troops,” said Sgt. Pat Midkiff of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Several hours before the main event, Jones put on a private show for members of the Warrior Transition Unit in Katterbach. The singer performed several of her songs and signed autographs for the wounded warriors at the Katterbach dining facility.

Jones spent an hour getting to know the Soldiers, many of which found reasons to relate to her. Several California natives spent time discussing home with the Los Angeles-based singer.

Sgt. Dallas German and Spc. Shane Jordan were excited to receive autographed copies of Jones’ album, rather than just the promotional CD put together for the tour.



Recording artist Leigh Jones signs autographs for Spc. Shane Jordan (center) and Spc. Sonya McNair at the Katterbach dining facility, March 17. Jones, headliner of the Army’s I. A.M. Strong Tour, gave a private performance for members of the Warrior Transition Unit in Katterbach prior to the public performance held at Storck Barracks the same day.

Jones also made the visit unique for Spc. Sonya McNair. McNair, who recently adopted an exceptionally short hairstyle, discovered that Jones sported the same look a number of years ago – and just happened to have a photo to prove it. McNair and Jones took a picture together, complete with the photo of Jones’ short hair.

“I find it so encouraging that she took special time just for our group,” McNair said. “Music is so healing, so what better way to motivate us. It’s so cool that she once buzzed her head, too ... she looked military.”

For her part, Jones said she loves meeting the troops her tour is supporting.

“I am so humbled by them, by what they do, what they go through,” Jones said. “Anything I can do bring something special into their lives, I’ll do it in a minute.”

WTU Soldiers voice concerns at town hall

by **Sgt. ANNA K. PERRY**

12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

KATTERBACH, Germany – Individual Soldier issues were few at the quarterly Warriors in Transition town hall meeting held at the Bismark Theatre, March 23. U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach’s Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Stephens was met with silence after opening the floor to wounded warriors by asking if they had any quality of life concerns.

The command sergeant major then asked about barracks problems. Staff Sgt. Yomaira Santos, a Warrior Transition Unit-Katterbach squad leader, said the unit was pleased with the quick, efficient response from the Department of Public Works.

The meeting was overseen by Heather Leiby, who was representing the Soldier and Family Action Plan office. Leiby opened by discussing current issues that had been brought to her attention prior to the town hall, including the need for a clearer traffic pattern by the Katterbach Health and Dental Clinic and improved parking at the Car Care Center on Bismark.

A number of Soldiers said they had noticed drivers ignoring signs by the clinic, which is adjacent to the WTU barracks, by driving the wrong way, exceeding the speed limit and parking illegally.

“I encourage you to take down license plate numbers and notify the (military police) when witnessing unauthorized acts,” Stephens said.

Soldiers attending said they were concerned because vehicles waiting to be worked on at the car center were blocking the entry for the fuel pumps, and there were too few parking spots available. Stephens said he would address the problem by speaking with the manager of the vehicle maintenance shop.

Following the brief discussion on current issues, Leiby updated the WTU troops on upcoming Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events, while emphasizing April is the Month of the Military Child. Family events will be held according to that theme, including Adventure Quest, Leiby said.

Leiby mentioned the SFAP office in the Yellow Ribbon Room is being reconfigured. The office received four new laptops and a printer and is working to have them up and running by the end of April. Computers will be available for WTU troops to use the Internet on the military network, which will allow them to access tools like Army Knowledge Online and Pure Edge.

Karoline Garcia, USAG Ansbach Army Emergency Relief program manager, presented troops with information regarding AER eligibility.

“We never want to tell a Soldier no. I always err on the side of the Soldier, so come in and fill out an application if you find yourself in a situation,” she said.

Garcia pointed out that loan recipients can monitor their payment plan at www.aerhq.org.

Norman Sliger, the USAG Ansbach AER campaign coordinator, followed Garcia by asking WTU troops to consider donating to AER to help reach the year’s \$80,000 goal.

Charles Collica, an attorney from the Medical Evaluation Board Outreach Counsel – Europe at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, advised the Soldiers to consult his office before making any final decisions regarding their MEB or Physical Evaluation Boards.

“I work for the Soldiers and represent your needs and desires, whether you want to return to duty or leave the military,” Collica said. “MEB/PEB is a complicated process with lifelong impacts. I’m here to help you through the situation.”

The next town hall meeting for WTU Soldiers is slated for June 8.

Celebrations abound in April for Month of Military Child

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**

USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Usually when the weather begins improving, that means it is April. And when it is April, military garrisons celebrate the Month of the Military Child.

“We take this month to recognize our military children for their sacrifices and service on being a military child,” said Sharron McKinney, finale event coordinator for Adventure Quest – the culmination of MOMC events taking place April 24, which is free for all military children.

She said life for military children can be tough and we need to honor them for the sacrifices they make.

“It is their unselfishness that counts,”

said McKinney. “Being a military child you make school and life transitions by moving to different installations and having to make new friends in a new location, and they have no say so in that — this is all as part of their daily routine with no questions asked for the sacrifices they make,” she said. “We are proud of them for being ‘our heroes’ and they do this with honor, courage and integrity.”

But Adventure Quest is not the only event happening in April. Children and adults alike can participate in a wide variety of activities planned throughout the month.

And for the community and families, it is a time for them shine.

“This is time for our children to be in the spotlight and applaud them for their daily sacrifices and unique courage,” said McKinney.

Month of Military Child Events in Ansbach

April 15: YSAAFES movie at Katterbach Movie Theater; Katterbach CDC, Ansbach JROTC Color Guard; Storck CDC Center Wide Art Project, 10 a.m.

April 16: Storck CDC Fitness Day; Katterbach CDC Wear Yellow to Support Troops; SAS Parents invited to show parents their music and special talents; YS Stuttgart, PX Shopping Field Trip

April 17: Katterbach CDC Team Spirit, Wear your favorite team jersey

April 20: Storck CDC Indiana Jones Scavenger Hunt, 3:30 p.m.; Sports Fun Run at Illesheim, 4 p.m.; 3-on-3 YS Basketball Tournament, Katterbach and Illesheim

April 21: Storck CDC Pajama Day; Free Hip Hop Workshop at Ansbach Middle High School for 6-12th graders, 3:15 p.m. –5:15 p.m.

April 22: Storck CDC Earth Day, 9 a.m., Community Clean Up/Plant a Seed Fun Run with Sports 3:30 p.m.; Sports Fun Run Katterbach, 4 p.m.; YS Earth Day Celebrations

April 23: Katterbach CDC, Adventure Obstacle Course; BOSS/YS Dance

April 24: “Adventure Quest,” Hangar 1, Katterbach: noon to 3 p.m.

April 25: Tell me a Story, Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot; 2-4 p.m., Katterbach DFAC. Guest reader: Col. Hickey (Parents must RSVP for this event to attend.)

April 26: Katterbach CDC Retro Day Dress from your favorite Decade Day

April 27: Katterbach CDC Storybook Celebrity Superhero Day: Dress as your favorite character.

Community celebrates ‘everyday’ women

by JESSICA ROBERSON

Pete Burke Community Center

Four volunteers along with the school principal and garrison manager — all women — teamed up March 24, at a luncheon at the Pete Burke Center to teach about 80 members of the Garmisch community a history lesson for the 30th observation of Woman’s History Month.

Originally a week of observation 30 years ago, the event now encompasses the entire month of March.

The theme for 2010 was “Writing Women Back into History.” The week prior to the observation, 60 children from the fifth through eighth grades attended an extracurricular writing workshop called “Writing What You Don’t Know (Yet).”

Students performed many creative exercises culminating with their “homework,” which was to go home and interview their moms or another important female in their lives, and then tell a story about their subject that they never knew before. Being an extracurricular activity, students weren’t compelled to do the homework, but many did it anyway. Students who wrote a paper attended the event and one student read the presidential proclamation.

Being the 30th anniversary of the observation, the number 30 was factored into the speakers’ comments.

“Just 30 years ago, as a woman, I might not have been your garrison manager,” said Karin Santos in her opening remarks.

Santos noted that Diane Devens, the current regional director for Installation Management Command Europe, might not have achieved her position of seniority either because the written and unwritten rules were very different 30 years ago, and that all women faced a glass ceiling of how high they could rise in the workplace, military, politics or sports.

“Fortunately, as a country we’ve continued to address this unfairness,” said Santos. “Today’s youth can’t imagine a time when they were kept back from their potential to ‘be all they can be.’”

Guest speaker Garmisch Elementary/Middle



Photos by Drew Benson

Students of Garmisch Elementary/Middle School listen as Principal Debbie Strong tells her story of how “Aunt Ruth,” one of the most influential role models in her life, wasn’t wealthy or in a position of power, yet taught her the values that shaped the person she is today.

School Principal Debbie Strong began her career as a teacher 30 years ago. Strong, who has a lot of theater experience and directed a school musical April 2-3, is known in the community as a talented singer and engaging speaker. She was originally to be asked to sing at the luncheon, but after considering her service as the principal and her volunteerism at various garrison activities, she was selected as guest speaker so the community could learn more about her personal history.

“Women’s contributions to the American society over the years have resulted in great

advances in medicine, education, mechanics and politics, and have provided us with a better quality of life,” said Strong.

In her address, Strong used an analogy of ripples caused in a pond by casting a single stone, noting how a powerful influence in her life was ‘Aunt’ Ruth, a neighbor who taught Strong the values that shaped her to be the role model she is now.

“She showed me how to be kind, loving, encouraging, gentle, forgiving, beautiful on the inside, and how to be a strong and confident woman,” said Strong. “Any success I have today

I owe in part to Aunt Ruth.”

A short film made for the event to highlight the achievements of the women of Garmisch was shown after Strong spoke. The film featured some famous women in history and their words.

Being a Garmisch luncheon event, it was volunteers who once again stepped up to provide a luncheon of homemade ratatouille, curried meatballs, goulash, monster salads, steamed asparagus with prosciutto, and tons of desserts. A documentary and the Women’s Army Air Corps (WAACs) and Women’s Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) of World War II called “Fly Girls” played in the buffet serving room to give attendees something more to think about women’s history.

All of the volunteers who made the observation happen are Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation employees, including Shelley Hansen from the library, Abby Kruse from the Auto Crafts Shop, and Debbie Guglhoer from the Child Development Center. The leadership and male staffers of FMWR rolled up their sleeves and did a great job cleaning up and helping serve the food.

“I am proud of women’s history and of how far we’ve come,” said Kruse. “I loved Ms. Strong’s speech because I feel there is so much truth behind it; it’s not always the Olympic gold medalist or the heart surgeon who is going to inspire us. It’s the school teachers who teach our future; it’s the waitress working doubles to feed her family; it’s our grandmothers, our mothers, our daughters.”

Kruse said volunteering for the observation was a blast because there are so many great women in the community.

“Seeing both the women and men (volunteers) work together to pull this off is proof that together we can achieve anything,” she said.

Garmisch PAO’s Note: Jessica Roberson, an events coordinator at the Pete Burke Community Center, was a key individual who made this observation happen. In addition to organizing and supervising the event, she produced the eight-minute film about women in history and taught the writing workshop.

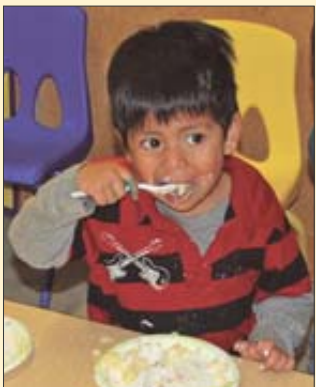


Photo by John Reese

April is for children

Anthony Goodwin-Mitchell enjoys a slice of cake courtesy of Garmisch AAFES in celebration of the Month of the Military Child.

The cake followed a reading of the “The Napping House” by Dawn and Audrey Wood to the 60-plus children and 20 adults at the Garmisch Child Care Center.

“It is very interesting to watch the teens at this event,” said Ellen Harris, Child and Youth Services director. “Many of them were read to at this event like this themselves when they were younger, and immediately following the story the little ones ask the older kids to read to them — and they do!”

Garmisch CYSS is sponsoring many events and activities for parents and children throughout the month, added Harris. These include infant massage demonstrations and baby sign language for parents, a mini-Kinderfest for the little ones, a military working dog demonstration, and “March with the Military,” an opportunity for the kids to participate in PT with their Soldier parents.

Month of the Military Child is an annual celebration underscoring the important role children play in the armed forces community. Every year the tradition in Garmisch is for a senior leader to recognize the daily sacrifices children make in supporting America’s Army.

Garmisch Bundeswehr passes the baton



Photos by John Reese

Oberstleutnant (Lt. Col.) Martin Koetter conducts the Bundeswehr’s Gebirgsmusikkorps (German Mountain Corps band) one final time before incoming band leader Hauptmann Christian Prchal assumes command, March 26. After three years commanding the elite Edelweiss soldier band, Koetter is transferring to fill the position of a retiring officer at the Luftwaffe Musikkorps 3 in Muenster. Brig. Gen. Johann Berger of Military District Command IV and Col. Michael Schramm, the leader of military music, were the guest speakers.



Teens are ‘Coming of Age’ in Garmisch

The Garmisch Elementary and Middle School Players presented the musical “Coming of Age” in the school auditorium, April 2-3. About 30 students performed in this musical about being the magical age of 13 — the first year of being a teenager. Director Debbie Strong, GEMS principal, said the show humorously depicts how young teens think and act.

“This musical takes you into the world of middle school students – their thoughts, their hurts, their insecurities and their struggles,” said Strong. Sixth-grader Astrea Roberts said she enjoyed the challenge of staging a middle school musical. “I think the best part is the people; the people are really fun to work with,” said Roberts, who played the part of Ashley. “I think what it’s really about is the people, because it teaches you to work together.”

Photo by Eric Weddle



Theatre brings wacky comedy to stage

Story and photo by
NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Schweinfurt’s community theatre brought to stage James Kirkwood’s screwball comedy “P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!” at the Abram’s Center community theatre, April 1-10.

When two antiheroes cross paths — one a modern-day Charlie Brown, the other a punk crook with a thick Brooklyn accent — what unravels is an intimate story bordering on the touching, the ridiculous, to the downright hilarious.

“There’s no hidden message in this play,” said award-winning USAG Schweinfurt entertainment director Garland Travis, who directed the play. “It really is about everyday life and what happens and what you do with that.”

Jimmy Zoole, played by Army spouse Phil Rigdon, is down on his luck. It’s New Year’s Eve in New York City and he’s just lost his job as an actor. He’s been robbed twice and, as the story opens, his girlfriend Kate, played by Erica Schmidt, is writing him a Dear John letter — or rather, ahem, a Dear Jimmy letter. P.s. Your cat is dead, she writes.

But when the depressed Zoole catches a second-rate thief in his house, played perfectly by Spc. Christopher Palmisano of the 44th Signal Battalion, things take an unexpected turn for the



Jimmy Zoole, played by Phil Rigdon, left, contemplates life with Vito Antonucci, played by Spc. Christopher Palmisano, right. Zoole, a struggling actor down on his luck, talks with Vito moments after tying him down after Vito’s bungled burglary attempt. “P.S. Your Cat Is Dead,” an adult comedy, played at the Schweinfurt community theatre, April 1-10.

worse ... or better, depending on where your sympathies lie.

That’s where the plot unravels, shifting back and forth from symbiotic exchanges to gut-splitting misunderstandings. A play that so finely

balances hilarity with emotional trauma demands unprecedented character development and believable dialogue.

Schweinfurt’s community theatre and those involved with the production delivered on all levels.

“Each time we’ve evolved more technically,” Travis said of the progression of the community theatre. “That’s not just with lights and sounds, but as in set details, details of the characters, developing

characters. We’ve been able to add character development because I’ve given homework so that they can study their characters.”

“I had three pages of homework,” Schmidt said. Actors narrowed in on their respective characters by choosing traits from a large list, she explained.

“I’m trying to get inside Jimmy’s head and what it’s like to be a failing actor,” Rigdon said on his weeks of preparation for the role as the play’s loveable loser. “I have to spin from crying, to being crazy, to being like ‘this isn’t so bad.’”

But don’t be dismayed by all the hard work and dedication. The stage is also an avenue to release stress and escape the daily grind of life in the Army, whether you’re a Soldier or family member.

“The theatre is a good way to let out your creativity and give back to the community,” said stagehand Spc. James Books of the 172nd Support Battalion.

“When I get off at 1700, I can be either in my room doing nothing worrying about what I’ve got to do the next day, or I can come here,” Palmisano said, pointing to the stage. “I forget everything about work and I can relax.”

“P.S. Your Cat is Dead!” will enter the 2010 IMCOM-E Tournament of the Festival of Plays for best comedy. The “Rocky Horror Show” that debuted last month will also be entered as a nominee for best drama.

Community honors women’s sacrifices, success

by **EVA BERGMANN**
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

In honor of the national Women’s History Month in March, the Schweinfurt Garrison paid tribute to the countless women who have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, political and economic ways of life, by inviting the entire community to a special Women’s History Month Program at the Conn Community Conference Center, March 24.

While following this year’s theme, “Writing Women Back into History,” Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joanne Martindale spoke of the sacrifices and endeavors of women in overcoming barriers of prejudice, their inspiring fight for rights, and the differences these women made in the world. She highlighted the community’s continuing responsibility to support and honor women, not only to foster the next generation of great women leaders, but also to remember the millions of women, who are still living under miserable circumstances today.

Martindale noted that more than 70 percent of the world’s poor are women, most of them without even basic education, which they are often banned from obtaining by their own fathers and brothers. At the same time, women worldwide perform the majority of important

services inside and outside their home – often out of necessity – and are an invaluable part of society. She urged those of us who live in a better place to think of these women and to speak up for those without a voice.

“We need to understand that there is no formula for how women should lead their lives. That is why we must respect the choices that each woman makes for herself and her family,” Martindale said. “Every woman deserves the chance to realize her God-given potential.”

During her speech, the chaplain also shared parts of her own history and the obstacles she overcame in her career. She asked the audience to think of women in their own personal history who had shaped and encouraged them along their way, emphasizing that extraordinary women surround us constantly and it is our duty to remember and honor them with our lives.

Staff Sgt. Rhonda Harris introduces guest speaker Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joanne Martindale, who honored the significant achievements and contributions of women in the past and present, but also emphasized the ongoing need to support women worldwide during her speech.

Courtesy photo



Group encourages nutritional weight loss

by **EVA BERGMANN**
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Weight management is not only a cosmetic issue, but also an important factor for leading an active and healthy life. The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) provides the Schweinfurt community with a new weight loss support group focusing on weight management through healthy nutrition. All community members ages 12 and over are welcome to attend the meetings, where they will benefit from the nutrition knowledge of trained specialists while receiving answers to their questions and concerns. WIC membership is not required.

“We want this program to be informational and at the same time fun,” said Jenny Dietrich, regional manager of the WIC overseas. “There will be no regulations on how much weight a participant has to lose or any control like that. It’s strictly a support group, open to anyone and it is our goal to be a resource on weight loss to the entire community.”

Dietrich has a Master of Science in Nutrition and is also a registered and licensed dietician, providing profound experience on the subject.

While the WIC counselors generally offer their expertise and nutritional information, they will also specifically tailor the new weight loss program to the needs of the group, asking the participants for the topics they want to learn about and adjusting the program accordingly. Personal ideas and requests are welcome and will be considered. Possible subjects could be exercise information or a commissary trip to gain a better understanding of nutritional information found on food labels.



Courtesy photo

“Nationally, our country faces a crisis of obesity and overweight issues,” said Marcia Brodersen, WIC counselor and registered nurse. “The end results are people developing lots of other diseases like cardiovascular issues ... which are the number one reason for death in our society.”

According to Brodersen, the new weight loss program might just fill a need the community lacked over the past years.

“During a community health class I surveyed our community and found out we are along the same norm as the United States in terms of overweight,” Brodersen said. “But the one thing that we were missing was any kind of support group ... Talking to our clients we discovered that they were on their own with any kind of support group they developed.” Brodersen also said the WIC Program seeks to reduce the clear disadvantage community members overseas have compared to families stationed stateside.

The weight loss support group meets every second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. and every fourth Tuesday at noon at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Barracks.

“There’s a lot of different information out there, but just because you know the information doesn’t mean you will be able to apply it,” said Sandy Erb, WIC counselor and registered dietician. “We want to talk about how we eat, why we eat and we want to be there to help you and answer your questions. ... We also particularly chose times outside of working hours for our meetings to ensure that everyone interested can join us.”

Erb said all members of the community are welcome.

For more information, call the Schweinfurt WIC at DSN 354-96-6791, CIV 09721-96-6791.

Specialist to visit retirees

by **NATHAN VAN SCHAIK**
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

A retirement services specialist from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will be on hand, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Personnel Transition Assistance Center, Building 40, on Conn Barracks. The purpose of the event is to provide assistance to military retirees across Germany.

Ninety-eight percent of all retirees have something on their account that needs attention, according to Sherry Renz, Schweinfurt’s retirement services officer.

The most common mistake Renz sees is when retirees move but do not update their addresses through DFAS. Granted, retirees may still receive their money in their bank accounts,

See RETIREES, page 24

Schweinfurt Soldiers deploy to Afghanistan



Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion salute comrades en route to Afghanistan. Comrades, friends and family members gathered to bid Soldiers farewell early Easter morning, April 4, at the Ledward Theater as Soldiers with 5th Signal Command's Bravo Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed to Afghanistan.

Story and photo by
NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Comrades, friends and family members gathered to bid Soldiers farewell early Easter morning at the Ledward Theater as Soldiers with 5th Signal Command's Bravo Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, deployed to Afghanistan, April 4.

"Our greatest responsibility is taking care of families and those left behind," said Lt. Col. Everett Spain, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt commander, to the packed theater. "We're going to take care of your families. We're going to take care of your rear detachments."

The approximately 130 Soldiers from Bravo Co. deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom will provide signal support for U.S. and coalition forces using the latest in satellite communications, or Joint Network Transport Capability-Spiral (JNTC-S), according to Capt. Jason Allen, Bravo Co. commander.

The company guidon was cased during a deployment ceremony on the Ledward Barracks parade field, March 26, signifying the closure of the unit's activities in Schweinfurt.

The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, whose rich history extends back to the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns during World War II, provided its most recent support in Iraq. Bravo Company deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for the duration of 2008.

Since then, Bravo Company accomplished in three months what typically takes units in a normal training cycle a year to do, according to Col. Gerald Miller, commander of the 2nd Signal Brigade Command Group.

Bravo Company increased unit readiness, moved from Mannheim to Schweinfurt, and prepared a company to deploy within the last 16 months, all while dealing with severe manpower shortages, Miller said at the deployment ceremony, March 26.

"Everybody's excited," said Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Mota, platoon sergeant for Bravo Co., 44th ESB. "It's been three months of training, so everybody's ready to get out there and do their job."



Photo by Emily Athens

First Lt. Vireak Ouch donates blood in Schweinfurt's Kessler Fitness Center during the blood drive, Jan. 12, sponsored by the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 15th Eng. Battalion. Unit representatives from both battalions are coordinating another blood drive, April 27, at Finney Fitness Center and invite all community members who are eligible to donate.

Battalions host blood drive

by **MIKE PEACOCK**
Armed Services Blood Bank Center-Europe

The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 15th Engineer Battalion teamed up to sponsor a community blood drive in Schweinfurt, Jan. 12. It was the first Armed Services Blood Program blood drive in the Schweinfurt community in over a year, and donors were eager to show their support.

The planning and coordination for the drive began in September 2009 when Kimberly Messer, the Family Readiness Support Assistant for the 44th ESB, called the Armed Services Blood Bank Center in Europe. She inquired about the steps needed to sponsor a blood drive, as well as learn about factors which may hinder individuals from donating. Around the same time, Spc. Robert Beggs of the 15th Eng. Bn. also contacted the Armed Services Blood Bank Center in Europe with the same intention of coordinating a blood drive. It was a perfect match, uniting the two groups to sponsor this life-saving event.

On the day of the drive, volunteers from the 15th Eng. Bn. were the first to arrive at Kessler Gym, bringing with them all types of baked goods and treats. When the drive began, donors began trickling in one-by-one until

the sign-in desk overflowed with individuals coming in to donate.

Over 140 donors came to donate and the community depleted every last blood bag that the Armed Services Blood Bank Center in Europe brought for the drive. It was a very successful event to say the least.

Donors from various units and organizations throughout the community played a large role in making the blood drive a success. The Schweinfurt community collected a total of 97 units of whole blood, tripling the number of donations from the last community drive over a year ago. When each unit of whole blood can save up to three lives, it's amazing what an impact that the drive made on the community.

The next Armed Services Blood Program blood drive in the Schweinfurt community is scheduled for April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Finney Fitness Center.

For more information on the upcoming blood drive, to schedule a donation appointment or setup a drive with your unit/group, visit the ASBP Web site at www.militaryblood.dod.mil or call the ASBBC-E at DSN 486-6497, CIV 06371-86-6497.

Editor's Note: Mike Peacock is a blood donor recruiter for the Armed Services Blood Bank Center in Europe.

Staso stops in Schweinfurt

Story and photo by
EVA BERGMANN
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Who's the man running across the globe, despite heavy snowfall, pushing the high-tech stroller with food, water and technical equipment? That's Paul Staso, former fifth-grade teacher, founder and president of the Promoting Active Children Everywhere (P.A.C.E.) Fitness Foundation.

Staso, whose most recent P.A.C.E. trek goes across Germany, stopped in Schweinfurt, March 16, to speak with students from both the Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle schools. His goal was to raise awareness of the importance of physical fitness among kids and strengthen their self-esteem by demonstrating what they are capable of if they just take it step by step, or in his case mile by mile.

During his visit, Staso specifically encouraged kids to set their own goals, regardless of complexity, and to develop the motivation and persistency to achieve them.

"Everyone needs goals, even the young kids. Their goal might just be to make their own bed every day in this week, but they should be setting goals for themselves," Staso said, explaining how setting small goals leads to bigger achievements.

"You see the kid who wants to be a doctor, a lawyer or a fireman, and no matter what the occupation is or the challenges are, you have to take care of your body. I want kids to think about what they want to do and see the fact that a healthy body will get them there better," he said.

Staso launched P.A.C.E. on a promise he kept with a group of fourth and fifth graders. If the students could rack up the miles it would take to cross America within a school year, which they did, he would make the trek himself. Staso ran across the United States in 2006, a total of 3,260 miles in 108 days, averaging more than a full marathon per day. After running across Montana in 2008 and through Alaska in 2009, Staso is now on track to run 500 miles across Germany, visiting several DoDEA schools

through March 30.

Students worldwide accompany Staso virtually by tracking their miles at home. Over 8,000 children participated in Germany alone. Of those include Schweinfurt's team of 23 students, the Walking Knights, established at the middle school.

The school's P.A.C.E. trek participation does not only include veteran runners, but has also motivated new runners who picked up the hobby.

"It's doable, but you can't give up when it gets a little hard, you have to keep it up to get better," said seventh-grader Cennet Huggins, describing her first running experiences. "It's just like this: if you begin something you always have to follow it through, you can't just give up."

For Staso, his ambitions reach further. Staso wants to teach kids about integrity and he sees military children particularly advanced for this lesson.

"I think military children have a better chance to understand that. These kids are around the military and they see integrity in action all the time," Staso said. "It is something that is very visual to them." Staso also spoke about his experiences with military children, highlighting their strong appreciation of family values.

For a man who has tallied up thousands of miles, setting and achieving new goals is not an easy task. However, Staso said his greatest achievement is his four children.

"And when I said that in that assembly to that boy, the response I got was unbelievable to me. Every child in that room just started clapping ... That caught me completely off guard," said Staso visibly moved by the students' reaction. "Everyone just started clapping, because they understand the importance of that and of family, because they got parents going overseas and they are in dangerous ways all the time. So to have that kind of focus on your children as being the priority means a lot to those kids."

For more information on P.A.C.E., Paul Staso or youth fitness and health, visit www.pacetrek.com. Teachers and coaches can also sign up their running teams at no cost.



Paul Staso, founder and president of the P.A.C.E. Fitness Foundation (Promoting Active Children Everywhere) stopped in Schweinfurt to speak with students from both the Schweinfurt elementary and middle schools, raising awareness of the importance of physical fitness among kids and strengthening their self-esteem.

Hohenfels welcomes 1-4th Infantry home



Photos by Kristin Bradley

Above: Capt. Steve Estes embraces his wife Erin upon returning from his deployment to Zabul Province, Afghanistan with Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, March 26.

Left: Sgt. Ryan Mountain greets his wife Ashley and new daughter Izabella, March 26, after a seven month deployment with Team Apache.

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they approach numerous aspects of their mission, from the type of vehicles they drive — along the highway the Soldiers drive the larger Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles instead of the smaller, more maneuverable vehicles they used in the north — to how they engage the locals.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, who began their deployment at FOB Lane in the rural north and ended at Al Masaak, along Highway 1, said the new location means using a different approach.

“There is a big difference. People at Lane loved us. When we’d go into a town in Lane people would come out and see us; at Al Masaak they would all step inside,” said 1st Lt. Peter Webb, platoon leader.

“(Al Masaak) is different than Baylough and Lane and the other remote FOBs. There’s more prosperity along the highway, they don’t need the humanitarian assistance as much,” said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Burlingame, platoon sergeant.

Both men said part of their mission at Al Masaak was similar to that at Lane, to get into the villages and establish a relationship with the local people.

“You can’t keep the highway safe unless you have the people on your side. Trigger men (for IEDs) hide there; they can notice irregularities that we can’t,” said Webb.

“We don’t have the established rapport with the towns in Al Masaak yet. We need to get out into the towns, establish relationships, do things like work projects and show we can offer something better (than the Taliban).”

“We’re trying to get intel and at the same time show the local populace that here is the (Afghan National Army) and they are really here to protect you,” said Burlingame.

According to Wheeler, the highway mission will mean 1-4th Inf. Regt. will work closely with its Romanian partners while the Romanians patrol the road itself and 1-4th Inf. Regt. Soldiers work their way into the surrounding towns. Both countries have the same goal, said Wheeler.

“The more we keep the highway open to local traffic, the better they (the Afghan people) can govern themselves, the more economic activity can take place and the more we can improve the future of Afghanistan,” said Wheeler.

Students look to community leaders for leadership qualities

Continued from page 3

As the brainstorming session progressed, Chris O. volunteered to speak with his language arts teacher about students writing letters and poems for the Soldiers. Another student volunteered to speak with the art teacher to see if cards could be made for the care packages. Cody W. and other students discussed what it would be like to be present when the Soldiers received their care packages at Landstuhl.

While students brainstormed more ideas, Salazar asked who would direct and take leadership of the process.

After several students discussed who would have the best access to the schools resources, Ben B. volunteered to lead the effort. The general then had him lead by delegating and Ben chose Meraleigh R. to be in charge of the efforts.

“Part of leadership is also about influencing and motivating those who you lead,” Salazar said. Salazar also emphasized that a leader does not just leave it at that, instead, the leader is also responsible for assessing the results and working with a team to correct things when the results are not completely fulfilled.

As a conclusion to the visit, Taylor A., Phillip R. and other students gave Salazar a tour of Netzsberg Middle School.

Editor’s Note: Nancy Nolin is a licensed clinical social worker of the Science Applications International Corporation -Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services Program at Netzsberg Middle School. She designed the Emerging Leaders leadership committee, which provides students with avenues to learn more about leadership and to assist with drug and alcohol prevention projects at the school. For more information, contact Nancy Nolin at DSN 472-9250, CIV 09645-917-9250.



Lisa Simmons receives recognition as one of Hohenfels’ phenomenal women from Master Sgt. Chris Mulvihill, JMRC Equal Opportunity advisor, during the Women’s History Month Luncheon at the Warrior Sports Cafe, March 30.

Hohenfels honors its phenomenal women at awards luncheon

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hold multiple volunteer positions; Simmons said she was surprised to be nominated because she doesn’t feel she does very much. They each said the expectations for women can sometimes be overwhelming.

“We have to do it all sometimes. We take care of everything,” said White. “I think sometime long ago someone decided that we could handle it and now we just do, we live up to it. If God didn’t think I could handle it he wouldn’t have put it on me.”

“Especially for military women, I definitely think a lot is expected,” said Simmons. “I like to hear women sometimes say no; it’s good for people to know we don’t have to do anything, we do it because we want to.”

Those high expectations lead to

an understanding between women, Simmons said.

“We all have an understanding of the need for time management, the need for me time, for prioritizing, delegating and the importance of family,” said Simmons.

“What makes women phenomenal is all their accomplishments, even the day-to-day things,” said White. “Every day is an accomplishment just by making it while trying to juggle all your goals and what you have to do on a daily basis. That’s what makes women phenomenal,” said White.

Other phenomenal women honored at the luncheon were Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet, Sonja Vass, Vinciana Carlson, Colleen Caputo, Lori Starnes, Anna Maynard, Deborah Barrows, Nickayla Myers-Garner, Angel Palmer, Alexandra Laboy, Violette Grant and Hildegard Gesell-Keil.

Retirees get finance assistance

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but DFAS representatives are limited in their ability to provide essential information. The Leave and Earnings statement sent in the mail, for example, can be kicked back to DFAS officials where it collects dust until the correction is made.

Currently, there are a number of people who used to reside in Wuerzburg who have yet to update their addresses, Renz said.

That’s what makes Tony Cifani’s trip to Schweinfurt so helpful to retirees in and around the community.

Tony Cifani of DFAS, who specializes in retiree accounts, has visited military installations around the globe assisting retirees. His April 19 visit is aimed at tackling some of the most common problems and dealing with any questions or concerns retirees may have.

“He will be able to assist retirees with one-on-one audits, corrections, changes and add or delete entries to their retiree pay accounts,” Renz said. “He will also be able to edit personal information or mailing

addresses, tax allotments, bank account information as well as print tax statements, and review personal and family data for corrections.”

No appointments are necessary for Cifani’s visit and those living outside the Schweinfurt jurisdiction are welcome to attend.

Those interested in taking advantage of the visit are recommended to bring their ID cards and any pay information, account information or personal records connected with whatever assistance they need.

Those unable to attend can see Cifani when he returns to Schweinfurt to provide his services Oct. 23, Schweinfurt’s Retiree Appreciation Day. More information about Retiree Appreciation Day is available at www.armygl.army.mil/RSO/rads.asp.

If you are a retiree and you have questions about your retirement services, contact Sherry Renz at CIV 09721-96-8812 or e-mail RSO.Schweinfurt@eur.army.mil. You can also visit Schweinfurt’s retirement services page at www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dhr/rso.htm.

Warrior Cafe ready for more

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March to close the Garrison Dining Facility after analysis revealed that neither facility was serving as many customers as they have the capacity to serve.

According to Army Regulation 30-22, “Installation commanders must consider consolidating dining facilities when total utilization of any facility drops below 65 percent of the design capacity on an annual basis.”

The dining facility reported a 21 percent average utilization rate, meaning it served 21 percent of the meals it had the capacity to serve, during the first quarter of fiscal year 2010. The Warrior Sports Cafe reported a 25 percent average utilization rate during the first quarter of fiscal year 2010.

Based upon those numbers, Warrior Sports Cafe managers said they fully anticipate being able to operate as the only dining facility on post while maintaining their high level of service.

Quarles said all former Garrison Dining Facility customers will be welcomed at the Warrior Sports Cafe.

“Though feeding civilians is not a recognized Department of the Army mission, civilians will continue to be served at the Warrior Sports Cafe,” said Quarles.

The Warrior Sports Cafe is open Monday through Friday, 7-8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-5 p.m.

Army looks for hand-held solutions

Apple and Army explore warfighting technology to apply on and off the battlefield

by **EDRIC THOMPSON**
Army News Service

CUPERTINO, Calif. – Leaders from the Army’s technology command visited Apple, Inc. here to discuss the use of Apple products in Army business and battlefield operations

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, commanding general, Research, Development and Engineering Command, and key members of his staff traveled to Apple headquarters, March 5.

Apple officials gave the Army group tours of its laboratories and other facilities and talked about some examples of where the military is already using Apple technology. The Army’s research and development command is evaluating commercial hand-held solutions such as iPad, iPhone, iPod, iMac and MacBook platforms.

“The Army is moving away from big-green-box solutions and toward those that will adapt along with our warfighters on the battlefield,” Justice said.

Justice said the Army recognized the billions of dollars industry invests to develop its devices.

“We’re continuing to leverage commercial technology for battlefield uses; we can’t ignore that kind of existing knowledge,” he said. “Our job, as stewards of the taxpayer’s dollar, is to adopt and adapt appropriate commercial technology and offer the best possible solution to the warfighter.”

The meeting was part of the Army’s efforts to support “Connecting Soldiers to Digital Applications,” an initiative to demonstrate the technical capabilities of hand-held devices and applications to the Army and gathering warfighter. The working group is tasked with looking at how commercial cellular technology – including devices, applications and networks – could be utilized in a tactical environment.

The RDECOM communication and electronics center advises on applications and new equipment training and support application delivery to pilot programs in its role as the lead for CSDA applications development.

Within RDECOM, the Communications-Electronics Research and Development Center has developed numerous hand-held command and control solutions and is supporting the development and transition of two iPhone applications: COIN Collector, a counter-insurgency information collection tool, and



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

The Army’s research and development command is evaluating commercial hand-held solutions such as iPad, iPhone, iPod, iMac and MacBook platforms. Within RDECOM, CERDEC has developed numerous hand-held command and control solutions and is supporting the development and transition of MilSpace, a combined planning and social networking environment.

MilSpace, a combined planning and social networking environment.

The Army’s official science and technology blog, Army Technology Live, released a public iPhone application last month. The app puts Army technology news, updates and media, such as images and video, in one location. The Army Technology Live iPhone application is available as a free download from the Apple iTunes Store.

“Apple technologies offer unique and proven solutions with intuitive designs that allow users to learn quickly without a training manual,” said Ron Szymanski, CERDEC’s lead computer scientist on the project. The Army would like to leverage Apple’s experience when designing military applications.”

Engaging companies such as Apple allows the Army research and development community

to leverage commercial business models as well, said Dr. Gerardo J. Melendez, director, CERDEC Command and Control Directorate.

“As we push to develop more commercial capabilities to meet Army information and knowledge management needs, it’s important that we engage companies such as Apple because we stand to benefit just as much from their lessons learned and best practices,” Melendez said. “Eliminating unnecessary processes or degrees of trial and error can only help us as we transition applications that can be deployed to numerous tactical levels throughout the Army.”

The meeting ended with plans for future technical discussions between the organizations.

Editor’s Note: Edric Thompson writes for Communications-Electronics Research and Development Center Public Affairs.

Survey helps determine housing allowances

U.S. ARMY EUROPE
News Release

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utilities and Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Expense Survey for Germany is now being conducted. The online survey is intended for all military personnel who reside off-post in privately leased or rental housing.

The Web address to access the survey will be located on the U.S. Army Europe home page under “Hot Topics.” This Web address provides a direct link to the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) online survey.

Every year the Per Diem Committee conducts a survey to identify how much service members spent in the previous year for utilities (for example, electricity, heating fuel, water, trash removal and sewer fees). Data collected is used to determine utility allowances, which are part of the computation of Soldiers’ Overseas Housing Allowance.

Additionally, every third year a survey is conducted to identify how much service members spent making their lease/rental quarters habitable when they initially moved-in. Sample expenses include purchase of major appliances or expenses associated with turning-on utilities. Data collected is used to determine the Move-In Housing Allowance, which is also part of Overseas Housing Allowance.

The survey requires service members to report the average monthly cost of utilities and routine maintenance in the past year. To complete the survey, service members should have actual bills or records of their utility and maintenance expenses for the last 12 months. Members will be expected to compute a monthly average for each of these expenses. Respondents may take the survey at home with their spouses.

The key to success is good participation and good data. Everyone is encouraged to take the survey.

For more, contact Randall Ries, DSN 370-3884, randall.ries@eur.army.mil; or William Gordon, DSN 370-3888, bill.gordon@eur.army.mil.

Orders won’t always free patrons from iron-clad contracts

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contract will tell you; the norm is three months. Remember to give written notice that you don’t want to renew the contract. Send it by fax or German registered mail because you have to prove that the company actually received the cancellation. Just sending it out is not enough.

Orders do not you get out of a contract.

You may not have any control over your PCS, ETS or deployment orders, but that does not let you off the hook. Under German law, you have no legal right to be released from a contract early. Some companies might accept your orders as a reason to release you, but it is totally up to them. And even those companies that do release you will likely charge some sort of penalty. Remember, the cost of those fancy, modern phones you get “free” when you sign the contract are usually indirectly built into your monthly contract fees, and the phone company won’t recoup the cost of the phone if they let you out of the contract early.

Lets’ see how this advice played out with some of our fellow Soldiers:

Soldier A signed a 24-month cell phone contract when he arrived in Germany for an anticipated three-year tour. He wanted the 24-month contract instead of the 12-month contract because it was such a better deal and because the phone was much nicer. At first he hesitated to sign the 24-month contract because he knew he wanted to apply for Officer Candidate School the next summer and that would mean a move.

The cell phone company salesperson said it was no problem to cancel as long as he showed his PCS orders. That wasn’t what the contract said, though. The salesperson told him not to worry about that – they just put that in there but they let people cancel all the time.

Soldier A was thrilled to be selected for OCS after 12 months in Germany, but guess what? He couldn’t leave country until he paid the cell phone company for the remaining 12 months of his contract. Ouch! See tip number 1: It doesn’t really matter what the salesperson told you – it’s the signed contract that counts.

Soldier B arrived at the same time as Soldier A and also liked the good deal (and the cool phones) the cell phone company was offering on 24-month contracts. He signed up. He stayed in Germany two and a half years, always paid his cell phone bills on time, and was pleased with the service.

During out processing, he couldn’t understand why

the cell phone company told him he still owed six months on his contract. He signed up for 24 months and fulfilled that obligation last year! But ... he forgot to cancel the renewal of the contract and so, after the 24 months were up, the contract automatically renewed for another 12 months. So, in effect, he had a three-year contract and he only used up two and a half of the years. See tip number 2: German contracts usually renew automatically, and failing to cancel the renewal on time can cost you big bucks.

Not wanting to commit herself for 24 months, Soldier C signed up for a 12-month cell phone contract. She was totally caught off guard when her unit came up for deployment rotation shortly after she arrived in Germany. She was even more shocked when the cell phone company said she would have to honor payments on the remaining months of her contract.

“That’s not fair!” she argued. “I’m deploying!”

Yes, she’s doing a great thing in service of her country and to promote freedom in our world, but she didn’t heed tip number 3. Under German law, you have no legal right to be released from a contract early.

Like Soldier C, Soldier D didn’t want to commit for 24 months even though it was a better deal, and so he signed up for 12 months. He carefully read the contract and brought a copy to the Legal Assistance Office to have them explain the few things that confused him. After the first year, the contract automatically renewed for another 12 months. After the second year, it automatically renewed for another 12 months.

Soldier D knew it was soon time to PCS. He remembered that he had to cancel the renewal of his contract three months in advance of the regular expiration date. He drafted a written cancellation and then brought it to the Legal Assistance Office to make sure it was okay. He mailed the letter registered mail from the Deutsche Post. When it was time to outprocess, he was cleared - no questions asked and no additional money paid.

Your legal assistance office has handouts summarizing important information about phone contracts and many other legal topics. If you run into trouble with a phone contract, make an appointment with a legal assistance attorney as soon as possible.

Editor’s Note: Lt. Col. Nancy A. Waldron is a reserve component judge advocate performing duties with the 7th Army JMTC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Puckering promise



Photo by Molly Hayden

Netzaberg Elementary School Principal Barbara Mueller puckers up to a piglet as Willi Neuser, deputy county commissioner, Neustadt/Waldnaab County, looks on during a Read-A-Thon assembly, April 7. Elementary students hit the books for the month of March, exceeding their 300,000-minute reading goal by more than 50,000 minutes. Mueller promised students a smooching spectacle with the pink porker if they reached the goal and, much to the delight of the audience, she delivered. Neuser brought the 1-week-old piglet from his pig farm in Pressath.

Campaign has 3 pillars

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success in current conflicts; prepare for future challenges; reset the force; and transition to the Army of the future.

But while there has been obvious progress, the general stressed that outcomes of eight plus years of war "will be with us for some time to come."

Looking ahead, Casey said the Army is placing special emphasis on two specific initiatives designed to further strengthen the resilience of Soldiers and families – the Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention

program, and the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

Following up on Casey's speech, Lynch told those in audience that as "unforeseen challenges arise must ask ourselves three fundamental questions: Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things rights? What are we missing?"

As Lynch stated in the campaign plan, "Effective leaders and responsible leaders at all levels must ask these three questions so that we can better focus our resources."